



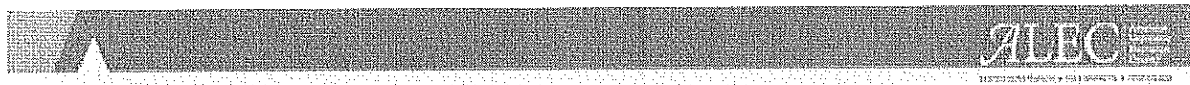
Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

ALEC Digital Exchange: 2/22/2018

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Thu, Feb 22, 2018 at 12:13 PM

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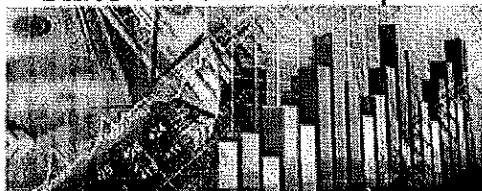
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New Publication

ALEC Releases *State Tax Cut Roundup* for 2017 Legislative Session
Center for State Fiscal Reform

State Tax Cut Roundup

2017 Legislative Session

The Center for State Fiscal Reform released the 2017 edition of the *State Tax Cut Roundup*. The report details the efforts of the nine qualifying states that enacted pro-growth tax and budget reform during the 2017 legislative session.

[Read Report](#)**Online Sales Tax**

Don't Let States Put Their Sales Tax on Delaware Businesses
Jonathan Williams | Center for State Fiscal Reform | *Delaware Online*



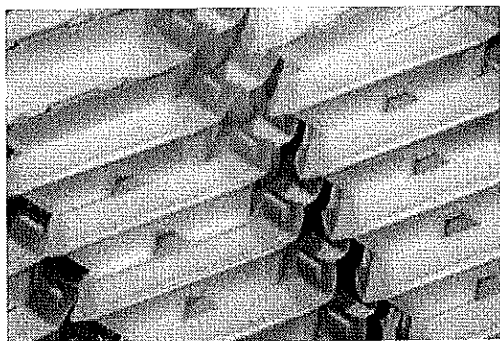
In an effort to boost revenue, some state policymakers in other states are looking to reach outside of their borders and force Delaware-based businesses to serve as their tax collectors. This would apply to Delaware businesses that simply sell products to out-of-state residents over the Internet. This should be concerning news to every resident and business owner – especially in no-sales-tax states.

[Read Article](#)

Environment and Innovation

Bad Container Policies Make Takeout, Shopping More Expensive

Grant Kidwell | Energy, Environment and Agriculture



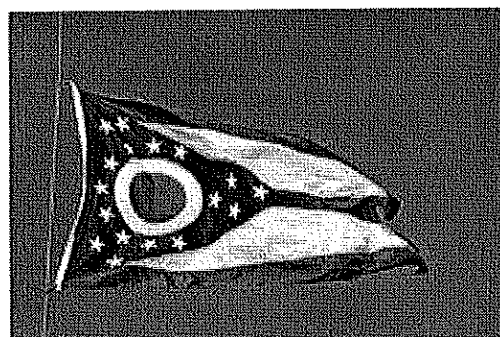
Whether it be a plastic bag, styrofoam container, or a cardboard pizza box, having a simple, inexpensive, lightweight container to carry meals in is what makes takeout possible. These are also essential for transporting groceries or any of the other items people buy. Taxes or fees on auxiliary containers, as well as outright bans, are regressive and impact lower-income households the most.

[Read Article](#)

State of the State Analysis

State of the State: Center for State Fiscal Reform Analyzes Ohio and Oregon

Joel Griffith and Elliot Young | Center for State Fiscal Reform



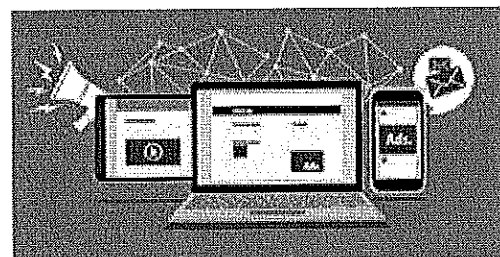
The Center for State Fiscal Reform continues its in-depth analyses of State of the State addresses from across the nation. The center is focused on highlighting both strong and weak tax policies outlined in the speeches, and their effects on the specific states. New this week are the analyses of **Ohio** and **Oregon**. To see all the responses so far, follow the link below.

[View Articles](#)

Communication and Technology

Private Sector Spurring Tech Companies to Change Advertising Practices

Jonathon Hauenschild | Communication and Technology



Technology companies will respond in more immediate fashion to the prospective loss of revenue than to the threat of government action. In other words, the private sector is far more effective at driving change than federal or state governments.

[Read Article](#)

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Turning West Virginia Around

Senator Patricia Rucker | WV-16




This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **West Virginia State Senator Patricia Rucker**. Senator Rucker is a first-generation Venezuelan-American and outspoken proponent of limited government policies. Rucker believes that the state government is "too big with excessive and burdensome regulation. We need to scale it back to a more reasonable size to allow our economy to grow."

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7/23/2018

Gmail - House & Senate Floor Reports



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House & Senate Floor Reports

1 message

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To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

Thu, Feb 22, 2018 at 3:08 PM

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News BillTracking Legislation

HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

HB 524

COLLEGE SAVINGS (Scherer, G., Patterson, J.)
To expand the income tax deduction allowed for contributions to Ohio's 529 college savings program to include contributions to 529 programs established by other states.

HB 525

TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K.)
To extend eligibility for the motion picture tax credit to certain live stage theater productions, to increase the maximum amount of credits that may be awarded from \$40 million to \$100 million

per fiscal year, and to make other revisions to the law governing administration of the credit.

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVES EDWARDS AND LIPPS; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES HOOPS AND MCCLAIN.

ARMED SERVICES, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND HOMELAND SECURITY: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE LANESE; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE KICK AS VICE CHAIR.

CIVIL JUSTICE: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES LANESE AS VICE CHAIR, EDWARDS, AND FABER.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCE, AND LABOR: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVES DEVITIS AND GREENSPAN; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES RIEDEL AS VICE CHAIR AND HOUSEHOLDER.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE HOOPS.

FEDERALISM AND INTERSTATE RELATIONS: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE LIPPS; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE BECKER AS VICE CHAIR.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY REVIEW: APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE LIPPS AS CHAIR.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVES SPRAGUE, ANIELSKI, LANESE, AND

YOUNG; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES HOOPS AS VICE CHAIR, DEVITIS, GREENSPAN, AND SCHERER.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE FABER; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE MCCLAIN.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE MCCLAIN.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE HOOPS.

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE GREENSPAN AS VICE CHAIR; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE PATTON AS VICE CHAIR.

WAYS AND MEANS: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE HOUSEHOLDER; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES ANIELSKI AND MCCLAIN.

SENATE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

SB 261

PAID LEAVE (Tavares, C.)

To establish family and medical leave insurance benefits to provide paid leave to allow an individual to address the individual's own serious health condition, to care for a family member, or to bond with a new child and to exempt those benefits from personal income tax.

SB 262**EATING DISORDERS (Tavares, C.)**

To require public schools annually to provide parents of students in any of grades five through twelve with educational information regarding eating disorders.

SB 263**NOTARY PUBLIC (Huffman, M., Wilson, S.)**

To enact the Notary Public Modernization Act.

SB 264**MEDICAL MARIJUANA (Coley, B.)**

To require the Auditor of State to conduct and release a performance audit of the Medical Marijuana Control Program, to prohibit the Department of Commerce from issuing final cultivator, processor, or laboratory testing licenses until performance audit recommendations are implemented, and to declare an emergency.

SB 265**PHARMACY SERVICES (Dolan, M.)**

To permit certain health insurers to provide payment or reimbursement for services lawfully provided by a pharmacist and to recognize pharmacist services in certain other laws.

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Gmail - Ohio Report, Monday, February 26, 2018



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Ohio Report, Monday, February 26, 2018

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To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

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OHIO REPORT

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News BillTracking Legislation

OHIO REPORT MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**\$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate
Addiction, Related Issues**

**Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine
Opioid Suit**

Nearly \$29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

**Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High
Court**

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

Travel Trailer Maker Tops List Of Tax Credits Issued By State Panel

Kasich Declares Emergency As Flood Risks Continue

Cyberattack Temporarily Shuts Down State Websites, Phones

Environmental Group Calls For Setback, Chemical Reporting Changes Following Well Fire

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Event Planner

ACTIVITY REPORTS

House

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner

7/23/2018

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GONGWER Ohio
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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, February 27

Legislative Committees

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

HB MONTH DESIGNATION (Riedel, C.) To designate May as "Drive Ohio Byways Month." (1st Hearing-159 Sponsor)

HB WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTS (Ingram, C., Seitz, B.) To modify the provisions concerning the 195 transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HCR HATE GROUPS (Leland, D., Greenspan, D.) To denounce and oppose the totalitarian impulses, violent 19 terrorism, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis, to urge law enforcement to recognize white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups as terrorist organizations, and to pursue the criminal elements of these domestic terrorist organizations in the same manner and with the same fervor used to protect the United States from other manifestations of terrorism. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB LICENSE FEES (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary 336 instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB ELECTRIC BICYCLES (Brinkman, T.) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles. (1st 250 Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082), South Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Scott Arthur, State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services

HB MONTH DESIGNATION (Gonzales, A.) To designate September as "We Card Month." (2nd Hearing-307 Proponent)

HB DAY DESIGNATION (Romanchuk, M., Wiggam, S.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." 229 (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB AWARENESS DAY (Thompson, A.) To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide 202 Awareness Day." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB SMOKING (Tavares, C.) To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle in which a child under six years of age is 106 a passenger. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB LICENSE PLATES (Johnson, T., Craig, H.) To establish a program for the issuance of special license 194 plates related to military service and awards. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

SB TAX HOLIDAY (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during 226 which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB TAX LAWS (Peterson, B.) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 22 14, 2016, into Ohio law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB TAX CREDIT (Gonzales, A.) To allow a refundable income tax credit for parents of stillborn children. (1st 507 Hearing-Sponsor)

HB TAX LEVIES (Hood, R., Becker, J.) To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot 488 language for property tax levies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Mark Wasylyshyn, Michael Staley, Brian Simms and Jay Beighley, Ohio Private Investigation and Security Services Commission

SB CRIMINAL LAWS (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by 66 including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB OFFENDER DATABASE (Gardner, R.) To provide for a violent offender database, require violent 231 offenders to enroll in the database, and name those provisions of the act "Sierah's Law;" to modify the membership and duties of the Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and eliminate its repeal; to require halfway houses to use the single validated risk assessment tool for adult offenders that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has developed; and to provide that the notice of release from prison of specified serious offense offenders that is given to sheriffs is to be the same as that provided to prosecuting attorneys and eliminate the notice to sheriffs regarding pardons, commutations, paroles, and transitional control transfers of offenders. (2nd Hearing-Possible amendments)

SB PROTECTION ORDERS (Hottinger, J.) To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a 171 protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

SB DOGS LAW (Beagle, B.) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious 195 dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

SB PROSTITUTION (Dolan, M., Manning, G.) To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution. (2nd 244 Hearing-Proponent)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 11 a.m.

HBCAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law 529 governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

HBOHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an 508 appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB BROADBAND GRANTS (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program 378 and to make an appropriation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 113, 1:30 p.m.

HB INTERIOR DESIGNERS (Pelanda, D.) Regarding interior designers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

504

HBOUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harborer of a dog to **263**take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBHOME INSPECTORS (Hughes, J.) To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio **211**Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBVETERINARY EDUCATION (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.) To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to **433**two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Criminal Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Manning, N., 644-5076), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.

HBDRUG TREATMENT (Antani, N.) To require that an offender serving a community control sanction or a **457**parolee who fails a drug test for heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil be held in jail or admitted to a residential treatment program for up to 30 days. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HBECONOMIC LOSSES (Merrin, D.) To include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of **391**economic loss as a type of economic loss for which restitution may be granted. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & substitute)

House State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 017, 2 p.m.

HBCEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain **454**unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HRDRUG USE (Young, R., Ginter, T.) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in **299**supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBWEEK DESIGNATION (Patterson, J.) To designate the second week of October as "Ohio Covered Bridge **483**Week." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HBHEALTH DISTRICTS (Brenner, A.) To authorize city and general health districts to use credit cards in **484**accordance with prescribed requirements. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBSTATE PROCUREMENT (Gonzales, A.) To establish the women-owned business enterprise program **492**requiring state agencies to establish women-owned business procurement goals. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBMINORITY ENTERPRISES (Gonzales, A.) To authorize the Director of Administrative Services to enter **493**into reciprocal-agreements with other states with respect to the certification of minority business enterprises and EDGE business enterprises. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBTOWNSHIP LAWS (Carfagna, R.) To make various changes to township law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor) **500**

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 313, 2 p.m.

- Note time & room change.

HB UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made **382**under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (15th Hearing-All testimony)

HJR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of **4**the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (15th Hearing-All testimony)

HB EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (Reineke, B.) To establish the Department of Learning and Achievement; **512** to abolish the Department of Higher Education, the position of the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Ohio Board of Regents; to transfer, with exceptions, the duties regarding the administration of primary and secondary education programs and all duties regarding the administration of higher education programs to the Department of Learning and Achievement; and to prescribe certain duties regarding educator licensure, community school sponsorship, and other education programs for the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Education. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB PUBLIC RECORDS (Retherford, W.) To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public **451** Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB USED TIRES (LaRose, F.) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. (4th **223** Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB PRIMARY ELECTIONS (LaRose, F.) To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or **10** the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB DOG BREEDERS (Hill, B.) To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders. (2nd Hearing-**506** Proponent-Possible amendments)

HB TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K., Patton, T.) To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for **469** contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (Dever, J.) To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and **489** credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

SB LEGAL MATERIALS (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.) To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. **139** (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB HEALTH BENEFITS (Antani, N.) To impose review and other requirements on existing health insurance **450** mandated benefits and to establish requirements for the creation of new mandated benefits. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB TAX LEVIES (Merrin, D.) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary **342** election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Pamela Mowry, North Central State College Board of Trustees and Jo Ann Davidson and Ranjan Manoranjan, Ohio Casino Control Commission

SB CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law **266** governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (Presentation from OBM Director Tim Keen)

HBCEMETERY REGISTRATION (Stein, D.) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the **168** Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBSUBDIVISION INVESTMENTS (Greenspan, D.) To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of **251** other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) (Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.

SB MEDICAID PROVIDERS (Lehner, P.) Regarding surety bonds and minimum training for certain Medicaid

218providers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

HBANATOMICAL GIFTS (Antani, N.) Regarding anatomical gifts, transplantation, and discrimination on the **332**basis of disability. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBPUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Young, R.) Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical **340**assistance recipients. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION (Thomas, C.) To allow a cottage food production operator to use a **233**firebrick oven located on a patio at the operator's residence for purposes of the cottage food production operation (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HBMENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice **111**registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

House Education & Career Readiness (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 644-6711), Rm. 121, 4 p.m.

HB YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.) With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness **502**and prevention in public schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.) With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness **503**and prevention in private schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications **318**and responsibilities of school resource officers. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

HB STUDENT EXPRESSION (Ginter, T., LaTourette, S.) Regarding student religious expression and to entitle **428**the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018." (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB EDUCATION LICENSE (Edwards, J.) To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license **491**to specified pupil services personnel. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB BULLYING (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school **360**discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

SR COLUMBUS CREW (Kunze, S.) To urge the investor-operator and chairperson of Columbus Crew Soccer **342**Club to keep the franchise in Columbus. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.) To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. (3rd **221**Hearing-Opponent-Possible amendments)

HB FIREWORKS (Seitz, B., Sweeney, M.) To establish a fireworks-study group to review and make **226**recommendations regarding the Fireworks Law, to extend to July 1, 2020, the moratorium on issuing fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, to eliminate, beginning January 1, 2021, the moratorium on geographic transfer of fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, and, beginning July 1, 2020, to impose a fee on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks in this state and to expand the ability of individuals to obtain 1.3G display fireworks and obtain and use 1.4G consumer fireworks. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.) To modify the law concerning regional councils **239**of governments. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 8:30 a.m.

Event Planner

State Auditor Dave Yost and GOP lawmakers news conference on Medicaid compliance, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Ohio Lobbying Association Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception, Sheraton Columbus at Capital Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 4 p.m., (4:00 pm - Annual Meeting for OLA Members; 5:00 pm - Legislative Reception. More info and to register: http://bit.ly/2018_OLA_AM)

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

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Senate Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

SB CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law **266** governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.

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SB SOLICITING (Brown, E., Kunze, S.) To increase the penalty for soliciting when the person solicited is **267** eighteen years of age or older, to specify that the fine for soliciting in this circumstance is not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, and to specify that up to one thousand dollars of that fine may be deposited into the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund. Am. 2907.24 and 5101.87

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Joint Education Oversight Committee: Senator Gayle Manning as chair .


DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

SB DISABILITIES COUNCIL (Burke, D.) To abolish the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities **144** Commission, Consumer Advisory Committee, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities; to establish a state rehabilitation services council known as the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council; and to restore staggered terms of office for the employee members representing firefighters on the board of trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.

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House Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

HB SCHOOL SAFETY (DeVitis, T., Sweeney, M.) To authorize a public or chartered nonpublic school to enter 526 into an agreement with a volunteer law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event, to provide the parties with a qualified immunity from civil liability, and to provide a tax credit for volunteer service. Am. 5747.08 and 5747.98 and to enact sections 3313.94 and 5747.64

HB VISITATION RIGHTS (LaTourette, S.) To allow certain specified persons to petition the probate court for 527 reasonable visitation with an incompetent or ward if visitation between the person and the incompetent or ward has been interfered with or denied. Am. 2111.132

HB CORPSE ABUSE (Smith, R., Rezabek, J.) To expand the penalties for abuse of corpse offenses. Am. 528 2927.01 and 2929.13

HB CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law 529 governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. Am. 164.05

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HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Insurance Committee: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Lang.

DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

HB MONTH DESIGNATION (Sprague, R.) To designate May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month." 45


HB FIREARMS TRAINING (Retherford, W., Hagan, C.) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical 79 professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training and has been authorized by the law enforcement agency to carry firearms while on duty; and to grant such a professional the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a concealed handgun licensee.

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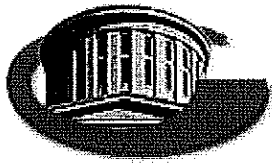
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GONGWER Ohio

The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Volume #87, Report #38 -- Monday, February 26, 2018

\$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate Addiction, Related Issues

The General Assembly is doubling its prior financial commitments for behavioral and mental health infrastructure in the capital appropriations budget that was introduced Monday.

The bill includes \$2.62 billion in new spending on bricks-and-mortar projects as well as a yet-to-be-disclosed amount of reappropriations for ongoing capital projects approved in prior biennia. The bill covers spending in Fiscal Years 2019-2020.

Companion House and Senate measures ([HB 529](#) & [SB 266](#)) allocate \$222 million for health and human services, developmental disabilities, mental health, addiction treatment and women's health initiative facilities over the next two fiscal years.

The fast-tracked budget, which will receive first hearings in both chambers on Tuesday, also includes \$150 million in community projects - \$20 million more than the original funding target - \$600 million for school facilities, \$514 million for local infrastructure projects and \$483 million for public colleges and universities.

The state will issue bonds to fund the spending.

The expanded health and human services support funding was added in response to the growing impact of the opiate epidemic, Senate [President Larry Obhof](#) (R-Medina) said.

"So where in the prior budgets you may have seen a few of these pop up, I think it's on the minds of a lot of people and we all recognize that these are some of the more important issues facing the state of Ohio and these are some of the things we chose to prioritize."

Some of the projects set to receive a chunk of the \$222 million are Alvis House and Maryhaven in Columbus, President Obhof said. The respective \$300,000 and \$125,000 projects would add about 260 additional treatment beds for addicts in Franklin County.

"We see these things throughout the state and not just in Franklin County, in Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties but in some of rural areas as well," Sen. Obhof said. "There are number of requests that are being funded from members throughout the state of Ohio for things like that."

Of the total allocation for such infrastructure plans, \$20 million will be provided through competitive grants, which were proposed by [Gov. John Kasich](#). (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, February 12, 2018](#))

So-called community resiliency projects that focus on expanding spaces for youth programming would receive the funding, said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton). The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and local groups will likely select the recipients.

"We recognize the need there and listened very carefully to the community," he said of the funding dedicated to combatting the opiate epidemic and related issues.

While that area of the budget saw a boost, overall capital appropriations shrunk by about \$10 million from the last budget, Sen. Obhof said. He's hopeful, however, that it will have a similar reach.

"We think that due to sound fiscal management and the hard work we put in in the main operating budget last year, we do have the capacity for the bonding and the funding of various projects throughout the state that you see in the bill," he told reporters after the legislation was introduced.

Leaders of both parties in each chamber worked together to iron out the details prior to the measure's introduction Monday, making it ripe for quick passage.

President Obhof said he expects a Senate vote on the House version - which will serve as the vehicle for the budget - in the week before spring break, which is set to begin in late March.

Local projects were brought forward by individual members for consideration while community colleges and universities created their own priority funding packages. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 22, 2017)

"This capital budget will give the legislature a tremendous opportunity to address several infrastructure and construction projects that will generate a positive return on investment for communities all across the state," Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said in a statement. "I want to commend the members of the legislature and local leaders for their collaboration and commitment to helping improve the lives of so many Ohioans through this legislation."

The capital budget has historically drawn bipartisan support as lawmakers look to support money funneled to projects in their communities. That trend is expected to continue this year.

"As legislators, we review capital budget applications, meet with individuals and organizations and visit project sites. You can't help but become passionate about what we can do to invest in Ohio's infrastructure and improve the community," Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) said. "Although it's unfortunate that we can't fund every much-needed community project that comes to our attention, I am happy with the progress that will be made through the capital budget."

If the capital bill process follows those of prior years, no major changes will occur during deliberations unless there are problems with the bill. The last several capital budgets passed with few if any amendments once they were introduced.

Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine Opioid Suit

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced that he has filed a lawsuit against four drug distributors for their role in the opioid epidemic.

The lawsuit, filed in Madison County Common Pleas Court, alleges that the drug distributors were negligent in over-supplying addictive opioid prescription drugs.

"We believe the evidence will show that these companies ignored their duties as drug distributors to ensure that opioids were not being diverted for improper use. They knew the amount of opioids allowed to flow into Ohio far exceeded what could be consumed for medically-necessary purposes, but they did nothing to stop it," AG Mike DeWine said in a statement.

"And much like the drug manufacturers who continue to fail to do the right thing, these distributors are doing precious little to take responsibility for their actions and help pay for the damage they have caused."

Named in the lawsuit are McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health and its subsidiaries, AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation and Miami-Luken, Inc.

Cardinal Health in a statement said it has been cooperating to "alleviate the public health crisis and save lives" though a multi-state effort led by 40 attorneys general and a multi-jurisdictional effort in Cleveland.

"We are extremely disappointed that Attorney General DeWine chose to go outside of these established processes at this critical moment in time to file this unfounded lawsuit," the company said in a statement.

The company went on to say that it cares deeply about the opioid epidemic and that there must be work toward meaningful solutions.

"This is why we launched our Opioid Action Program which augments our substantial efforts to combat opioid abuse and is providing funds and support for take back efforts, Narcan giveaways for first responders, and grants for communities looking to find holistic solutions to this public health issue throughout Ohio," it said.

"Cardinal Health has made a significant investment in state-of-the-art controls to effectively combat the diversion of pain medications from legitimate uses. We believe this kind of effort and investment, and not baseless litigation, is the way to alleviate this problem."

The lawsuit alleges that the companies fueled the opioid epidemic by distributing enough of the drugs to fill more than 11.8 million prescriptions from 2011 to 2016, amounting to dosages that averaged more than 739 million each year.

The drug epidemic has resulted in annual damages in excess of \$1 billion, the lawsuit alleges. Those costs include medical care; treatment for infants born with opioid-related medical conditions; public safety measures; substance abuse prevention; and welfare and social services for the children of addicted parents.

The lawsuit also alleges that more than 7,000 Ohioans have died due to the opioid crisis.

The companies "have supplied and continue to supply quantities of prescription opioids in and around Ohio without taking proper measures based on their actual or constructive knowledge that individuals were consuming opioids for non-medical purposes," the lawsuit reads.

Among the remedies Mr. DeWine is seeking are punitive and compensatory damages.

This marks the second lawsuit the AG has filed against drug companies over the opioid crisis. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2017](#))

Nearly \$29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

Controlling Board members Monday approved more funding for state information technology projects after raising questions about performance-based contracts and the state's savings from consolidating services.

The requests from the Department of Administrative Services included one worth nearly \$24.8 million for the state's main IT services delivery line item, which has increased over the years due to the consolidation, DAS Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Leymaster told the board.

The other request, for \$4.4 million, dealt specifically with a pair of projects involving nine agencies, she said.

[Rep. Scott Ryan](#) (R-Newark) asked if the state's IT contracts have performance clauses for the timing of delivery or for the accountability of functions.

The request Monday didn't deal with specific contracts, just the appropriation changes needed to cover contract costs, Ms. Leymaster said.

"We'd be happy to see if individual contracts have the type of controls that you're asking about," she said.

Ms. Leymaster told [Sen. Charleta B. Tavares](#) (D-Columbus) that the projects are part of a broader optimization project that has saved the state more than \$160 million since its inception.

The board also approved two significant funding requests from the Development Services Agency to support affordable housing after Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) asked about cost containment measures and access for people with disabilities.

The requests included \$13.6 million for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to administer the Housing Development Assistance Program, and \$5.5 million for housing assistance programs across the state.

Kelan Craig, director of planning, preservation and development at the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, said the administration has worked to ensure projects are done effectively at low cost.

As for accessibility for people with disabilities, there are specific requirements for projects targeted at seniors and for permanent supportive housing developments, but not for standard affordable housing, he said.

"Let's just watch that and make sure we don't have a problem with that," Sen. Coley said.

A request by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for \$1.1 million to replace the emergency generator at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens was approved after Sen. Coley asked about the hospital's involvement in plans to participate in peak demand emergency programs.

Stephen Wilson, legislative liaison for ODMHAS, said the state found it would only save a couple thousand dollars to participate in the utility's peak demand program, while placing strict requirements on hospital staff.

Sen. Coley said the programs can help other facilities, such as industries and schools, when the power goes down.

"Hospitals around the state are finding great benefits to these programs," he said.

In total, the board approved 82 requests for funding.

Other items approved included: (Agenda)

- \$2.9 million - Central State University - for repair and modernization of the Hallie Q. Brown Memorial Library.
- \$11.7 million - Cleveland State University - to contract for an addition project at Fenn Hall.
- \$1.9 million - Cuyahoga Community College - to buy 12.82 acres of real estate in Euclid for the expansion of the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Academy.
- \$1 million - Adjutant General's Department - for masonry renovation and HVAC work at the Hamilton Readiness Center in Butler County.
- \$4.6 million - DAS - for administration of the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System.
- \$2.3 million - Department of Agriculture - for lab supplies and equipment.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services - for emergency generator replacement at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens.
- \$1.6 million - Bureau of Motor Vehicles - for federal grants to purchase and install document scanners and update existing computer systems to confirm commercial driver's license applicants provided proof of citizenship or permanent residency.
- \$10.5 million - Facilities Construction Commission - for master facilities plan amendments from Elida Local School District and Bloom-Carroll Local School District.

Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High Court

Can a juvenile adjudication be used to satisfy an element of a crime committed as an adult?

Anthony Carnes will argue that it can't in a case the Ohio Supreme Court is set to hear Tuesday.

Mr. Carnes was charged with a third-degree felony offense of weapon-under-disability based on a 1994 juvenile adjudication. He moved to have the charge dismissed, but the trial court denied his motion.

The First District Court of Appeals upheld the trial court's decision. But Mr. Carnes argued that both court erred in their decisions.

"Simply put, juvenile adjudications are not criminal convictions and should not be viewed as such. This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that Ohio's juvenile system uses two different approaches, one mandatory and one discretionary, to transfer its most severe offenders into the adult system, and has a process to include an adult sentence with a juvenile rehabilitation for the next most serious level of offenders," his merit brief reads.

"In line with that approach, this court has prohibited juvenile adjudications from increasing punishment for subsequent adult conduct. Given that framework, it is incongruous for such adjudications to be permitted to turn what would otherwise be lawful conduct into a crime. Thus, a juvenile adjudication should not be deemed to meet an element of an offense charged against an adult."

The Juvenile Law Center and the Buckeye Firearms Association both weighed in on the case on behalf of Mr. Carnes.

"Individuals with Ohio juvenile adjudications do not fit into the long standing prohibition on the possession of firearms by felons because they simply are not felons by definition," the BFA wrote in its amicus brief.

The state, however, argues that a juvenile adjudication cannot be used to enhance a penalty, but it can be used as an element of a crime. The state also contends that if the court were to side with Mr. Carnes it would gut the state's law prohibiting the possession of a weapon under disability.

Under the law, "there are multiple means of being placed under a disability that do not include the right to a jury trial: being a fugitive from justice, being under indictment for a felony offense of violence, being under indictment for a felony drug offense, being drug dependent or in danger of drug dependence, being a chronic alcoholic, and being adjudicated mentally incompetent. Just as is the case with a juvenile adjudication, none of those situations carries a right to a jury trial - state," the state writes.

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office has also asked the court to affirm the First District ruling.

"Persons who commit violent felony offenses are considered bad risks who should not be allowed to legally possess a firearm. The fact that a person who commits the violent felony offense as a juvenile does not make that person any less of a bad risk," it wrote in an amicus brief.

"But Ohio's weapons disability law recognizes that people can turn their lives around and become law-abiding citizens after committing a single indiscretion or even after committing a series of crimes decades ago. That person can legally possess a firearm after following the appropriate statutory remedy; but until that time, the person should not be able to possess a firearm under Ohio law."

Three district court judges will be involved in the case because Justice Sharron Kennedy, Justice Patrick Fischer and Justice Patrick DeWine have recused themselves.

Justice DeWine concurred in judgement only with the First District's opinion upholding the trial court's decision to deny the motion to dismiss the charge.

The high court is set to hear two other cases Tuesday, it reported:

- In *Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation v. Cirino*, it will hear a case involving a Bureau of Workers' compensation beneficiary challenging the electronic payment program because he is charged fees by his bank. The state argues the case must be filed in the Court of Claims.
- A Columbus attorney is facing a six-month stayed suspension for failure to keep and maintain required financial records in the case of *Columbus Bar Association v. Keating*.

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

A Trump administration proposal to expand options for short-term health insurance is designed to give consumers more options in the marketplace without the regulatory burden of current plans.

Opponents say it could lead to more limited coverage and raise premiums for people on standard exchange plans.

The proposal by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, announced last week, would allow short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans to provide coverage for up to 12 months, up from the current maximum of three months.

These plans are not required to meet the federal requirements for individual health insurance, such as providing essential health benefits or coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.

"In a market that is experiencing double-digit rate increases, allowing short-term, limited-duration insurance to cover longer periods gives Americans options and could be the difference between someone getting coverage or going without coverage at all," CMS Administrator Seema Verma said in a statement.

In Ohio, the move will provide more competition in the marketplace for health insurance, said Greg Lawson, research fellow at the Buckeye Institute.

"It's not going to be a perfect fit for everybody, but for those individuals that it works for, this could be something that could work for you, and it would be a cheaper alternative than being forced into the exchange," he said in an interview.

Critics say the change will erode coverage for people who sign up for the short-term plans and drive up premiums for those who need the more comprehensive coverage of Affordable Care Act-compliant plans.

"These short-term plans are likely to be harmful in the long run," said Steven Wagner, executive director of UHCAN Ohio. "Since they may lack meaningful coverage, people may find that their health care costs are not covered or face substantial out of pocket costs. These plans are a step in the wrong direction."

A report by the Urban Institute estimated the change would lead to an increase of 2.5 million people without minimum essential health care coverage by 2019, and an increase of 18.2% in 2019 premiums for ACA-compliant nongroup insurance plans.

The changes would allow people to shop around for the coverage they want, Mr. Lawson said. The Buckeye Institute and others have criticized the ACA exchanges for placing burdensome regulations on insurers and raising premiums.

"In general, what this will allow is you can have more barebones type policies that are more affordable," he said. "I don't think this is necessarily the pathway that we would prefer to see on a permanent basis but given the fact that the affordable care act is still the law of the land, this does give some breathing space."

Mr. Wagner said those requirements ensure people have comprehensive insurance coverage. He called the latest change part of an effort to eliminate coverage requirements created under the ACA.

"The Trump Administration is eating away at the foundations of health care coverage like termites in the foundation," he said. "This change along w the ability to alter the essential health benefits weakens people's access to quality affordable health care."

Travel Trailer Maker Tops List Of Tax Credits Issued By State Panel

The Tax Credit Authority on Monday approved incentives for four projects that promise to create a total of 475 jobs and retain another 1,405 positions, the Development Services Agency reported.

The \$2.81 million in tax credits, an estimate that depends on the companies meeting their hiring goals and other criteria, are projected to help trigger \$41 million in investments and result in more than \$24 million in new payroll, according to the state.

Topping the list in terms of impacted jobs and tax credit value is the \$2.325 million incentive for **Airstream, Inc.** in the Village of Jackson Center in Shelby County.

The designer and manufacturer of travel trailers and touring coaches expects to create 280 full-time positions generating \$14.8 million in new payroll while retaining \$57.2 million in payroll with its expansion project. The TCA approved a 1.874%, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for the plans.

The other approved projects (estimated tax credit values) are:

Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. of Hilliard (Franklin Co.). The provider of claims, productivity, managed care, risk consulting and other services expects to create 109 full-time positions generating \$4.3 million in new payroll while retaining \$13.4 million in payroll. The expansion plans attracted a tax credit of 1.31% over seven years (\$400,000).

Veeva Systems Inc. of Dublin (Franklin Co.) plans 46 new jobs, \$3.5 million in new payroll and the retention of \$2.1 million in payroll with its expansion. TCA awarded a 1.62%, seven-year tax credit for the project (\$355,000).

Modular Assembly Innovations LLC of Allen Township (Union Co.), which plans 40 new jobs, \$1.4 million in new payroll and the retention of \$7.6 million in payroll. The provider of manufacturing and modular assembly services to the automotive industry was awarded a 1.055%, six-year JCTC (\$90,000).

Kasich Declares Emergency As Flood Risks Continue

Two days after Gov. John Kasich declared a state of emergency in 17 counties, areas of Ohio are continuing to grapple with flooding.

On Saturday, the governor issued his emergency declaration in the face of flooding - particularly along the Ohio River, which was expected to crest Monday.

Although rains have stopped, flood waters linger in some areas, closing roads and posing ongoing safety risks. The National Weather Service has said flood warnings are expected to persist for several more days in the central U.S. as "numerous river systems will remain in flood stage this week."

"As the weather and flooding is expected to get worse we're staying ahead of things by taking our readiness up to the next level and declaring an emergency where we expect the worst conditions," Gov. Kasich said over the weekend. "We'll quickly add to those areas as it's needed."

Counties affected by the proclamation include: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Columbiana, Gallia, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Monroe, Meigs, Muskingum, Scioto and Washington.

The state's Emergency Operations Center had been preparing for this round of flooding since at least Feb. 18. That's the day the Ohio EMA Watch Office began providing regular awareness reports multiple times a day to

state, local and federal agencies.

In recent days meals have been provided to the elderly by the Department of Aging, emergency management liaisons have been dispatched to assist county-level operations centers, and swift water rescue teams have been positioned.

"Ohioans do a good job of looking out for each other and we're doing it again now also," Gov. Kasich said. "Teams at the local level are hard at work and state teams have been coordinating with them and supporting them over the past week."

Following the Kasich order, the EMA transitioned from assessment and monitoring to partial activation and the state's Joint Information Center was opened. That followed Ohio National Guard deployments to help install flood gates and a flood wall in Scioto County.

In recent days, state entities have assisted in providing sand bags and a water pump to communities in Lawrence County. A major rockslide on Monday closed a portion of a highway in that county, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation. State geologists were on the scene.

"I urge people to stay safe by staying informed, not taking any chances and checking in on your neighbors, especially seniors and families with young kids," the governor said. "Call your local city, county or Red Cross if there's anyone who needs help. We'll get through this as we always do, by working together."

At the same time, Attorney General Mike DeWine has issued several tips to steer residents away from flood-related scams that may arise.

"As people across Ohio assess the damage and start the clean-up process, we're reminding consumers to beware of scams," Mr. DeWine said. "Some con artists travel to affected communities to take advantage of people. They offer to help, but once they get your money, they're gone. After the flooding, we also could start to see flood-damaged vehicles entering the market. We just warn people to be careful."

Cyberattack Temporarily Shuts Down State Websites, Phones

The Department of Administrative Services is making modifications after a cyberattack blocked state websites and phone systems for multiple hours Sunday evening.

DAS spokesman Tom Hoyt said the attack was launched shortly after 5:30 p.m. Sunday and "was addressed quickly and remediated at approximately 9:50 p.m."

"It was not a breach - no personal information was compromised," Mr. Hoyt said.

Several accounts seemingly affiliated with the so-called "hacktivist" group Anonymous appear to be taking credit for the attack on social media. Anonymous-linked users posted screenshots showing error pages that appeared when trying to access state websites.

The attack was a denial-of-service attack, which is a concerted effort in which users bombard a targeted system with requests, thereby overloading and disabling it for legitimate users.

"The attack itself was educational in the sense that we now know how this type of attack is done and we can put in filters and prepare to help us be ready if it happens again," Mr. Hoyt said. This is the first time DAS has grappled with this specific method of a denial-of-service attack.

"These types of attacks can be done in different ways so we're aware of them and prepare for them," Mr. Hoyt said. "This was conducted in a different way, but once you go through that, you learn how it's done and we can prepare for the next time."

It's not the first time the state has been faced with a cyberattack.

Nearly a dozen state websites were impacted last year after hackers posted pro-ISIS messages on state homepages. That "internet graffiti-style" attack, however, was believed to be surface-level in nature with hackers not accessing the state's servers. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2017](#))

Environmental Group Calls For Setback, Chemical Reporting Changes Following Well Fire

The Ohio Environmental Council is pointing to a Feb. 15 explosion and fire at a Belmont County oil well as new evidence pointing to the need for increased well setbacks.

But a leading oil and gas group is accusing the council of seeking to block industry development with its latest call for new legislation.

A horizontal well operated by XTO caught fire earlier this month, causing explosions and leading to the evacuation of residents within a one mile perimeter as the well continued to leak methane and other gasses.

XTO has said it has contracted with various companies to monitor the area and oversee cleanup operations. It has also paid to house 100 households who were displaced. Those residing beyond a half mile from the site have since been moved back into their homes.

The OEC said the incident is a "wake up call" demonstrating a need to strengthen Ohio's current law requiring horizontal wells to be located at least 100 feet from rural homes.

"What this incident demonstrates is that Ohio's current setback laws for horizontal oil and gas wells are clearly insufficient and do very little to protect communities from this new wave of oil and gas development," said Melanie Houston, director of climate programs at the Ohio Environmental Council. "Given the frequency of horizontal well pad incidents in Ohio over the past five years, it is past time for Ohio lawmakers to reconsider a safer setback distance."

The group said the incident also shows the need to examine laws requiring well operators to disclose hazardous chemicals to emergency responders. That debate was a point of contention during budget talks last year. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, April 14, 2017](#))

"State lawmakers also must close the chemical reporting loophole in Ohio law to make sure that first responders such as those responding to last week's incident can get the full accounting of chemical identities during oil and gas emergencies," Ms. Houston said.

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association, however, said 2012 legislation in that arena "created one of the most stringent regulatory programs for chemical disclosure in the nation."

That bill (SB315, 129th General Assembly) was a far-reaching energy mid-biennium review measure that strengthened requirements. But Democrats and environmental groups at the time said it didn't go far enough with its chemical disclosure provisions. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2012](#))

"The bill required chemical disclosure to all first responders, providing access to the information that they need and allowed (the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) to ask for additional chemical information when there is an incident," said Matt Hammond, OOGA's senior vice president.

As far as the idea of increased setbacks, the organization accused OEC and its allies of attempting to use a setback increase to snuff out oil and gas development.

"We have all heard the calls for increased setback distances since 2003 and found that environmental groups have supported setback distances for the sole purpose to offend the property rights of landowners and effectively block oil and gas development," Mr. Hammond said.

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) on Monday announced their intention to introduce a bill allowing for the removal of firearms from people deemed to be an imminent danger to themselves or others.

The proposal would establish an Extreme Risk Protection Order that would allow family or law enforcement to ask a court to temporarily remove firearms for up to one year.

"Family members are often the first to know when a loved one starts showing signs that they're dangerous to themselves or people around them," Sen. Schiavoni, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement. "Sadly, there aren't many options available to be proactive, remove weapons and prevent those moments from becoming tragedies. This bill is common sense. It provides a clear process when loved ones notice those red flags."

Five other states have similar laws. In announcing the intention to introduce the measure, the lawmakers cited Gov. John Kasich, who in a recent television interview expressed support for ERPOs.

"I am pleased to see the conversation turn and the mood shift toward sensible gun safety measures in Ohio," Sen. Williams said. "I'm also pleased to see Gov. Kasich supporting efforts to combat gun violence. We know how to reduce gun violence in America while still respecting the Second Amendment. This bill is a step forward in that direction."

School Safety: State Auditor Dave Yost on Monday rolled out a three-point school safety plan centered on securing buildings.

The attorney general hopeful's plan calls for a statewide inventory of security measures at all 5,200 school buildings across the state and a bond-backed program to modify them to create a single point of entry, install electronic zoned locking systems and add video cameras.

The final piece of the plan calls for the establishment of a training program for school staff volunteers with prior military or law enforcement experience.

"We need to protect our kids at school at least as well as we protect our politicians at work," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "This program takes the same proven tactics and technology we use in government offices-and many private businesses-and puts them to work in our schools, where our greatest treasures are."

Janus Case: A day ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court hearing oral arguments in a case that could have far-reaching implications for public sector unions, hundreds gathered on the Statehouse lawn for the "Working People's Day of Action."

The event also comes in the wake of six pieces of legislation introduced in Ohio to revise collective bargaining laws.

"The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus stands in solidarity with labor and working people," Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President and Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) said in a statement. "Right to Work is wrong and has no place in the state of Ohio. Fair labor practices, equitable pay, representation in the workplace and building power through unity are essential to making Ohio stronger, and should be a guaranteed right to all who are willing to work."

Buckeye Institute President Robert Alt said the questioning by Justice Anthony Kennedy during oral arguments should leave union supporters concerned.

"Given how frequently Justice Kennedy is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree," he said.

Gun Control: The gubernatorial campaign of Dennis Kucinich continues to put gun control in the spotlight.

In the latest move, Mr. Kucinich's running mate, Akron City Councilwoman Tara Samples, plans to introduce a measure to urge state lawmakers to pass a ban on assault weapons.

"Dennis and I, with the help of more than 2,000 grassroots volunteers, are working to convince every city council and every board of education all across Ohio to support getting these killing machines off our streets," she said in a statement. "I couldn't be more proud that my own community is about to become the first in Ohio to take this step."

New Polling: A Suffolk University/*USA Today* poll released Monday found strong support for additional gun restrictions, including 63% of respondents who want semi-automatic weapons banned.

Another 76% said that people treated for mental illness should be banned from owning firearms and 61% said stronger gun control law and background checks could prevent more mass shootings.

The poll also found that 62% believe schools should be required to have metal detectors and 58% believe there should be a requirement that schools have a armed police officer stationed on campus.

However, just 19% believe the prospects of Congress passing gun-control measures are good to excellent and 25% believe there is a fair chance for legislative action. Another 51% said the chances are poor.

"Voters see a Congress that is deaf to their wishes about remedying gun violence in the United States," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston

The nationwide survey of 1,000 individuals, which has a margin of error of 3%, also found that President Donald Trump's approval rating stands at 38%, down from 47% one year ago.

"President Trump's job performance ratings have had several ups and downs in the past year, with last March's relatively strong showing coming in the aftermath of a well-received speech to Congress," Mr. Paleologos said. "The bump he got after signing the tax bill in December appears to have been overwhelmed in light of young people challenging him on gun issues and the investigation of Russian meddling in U.S elections."

ODP Training: The Ohio Democratic Party announced Monday that more than 110 candidates took part in its "Main Street Initiative," which provides training and support to candidates.

"What Democrats are seeing nationally, we're seeing here in Ohio, too - the unprecedented energy and enthusiasm of the grassroots is turning into record numbers of Democratic candidates running in races up and down the ballot," ODP Chairman David Pepper said in a statement. "We're proud to support our state and local candidates when they run for office, as we build our bench of great public servants. We look forward to working with our 2018 'Main Street' candidates from now through Election Day and then touting their successes once they're in office."

Governor's Appointments

State Auctioneers Commission: Theresa M. Blocher of Paris for a term beginning February 26, 2018, and ending October 9, 2020.

Board of Nursing: Lauralee S. Krabill of Sandusky and Patricia A. Sharpnack of Chardon for terms beginning February 26, 2018, and ending December 31, 2021

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, March 5

One Ohio Now news conference open state data ahead of the State of the State Address, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7


Rep. Martin J. Sweeney (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Marty, We Love You; \$1,000-\$5,000; Best Buddy; \$500; Good Pal; \$100 Friend: \$25 to Friends of Martin J. Sweeney)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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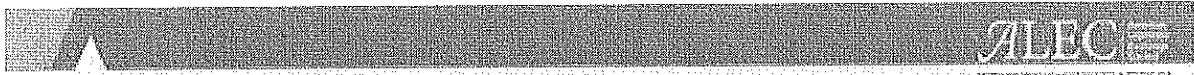
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Center to Restore the Balance of Government
February 27, 2018



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Chairman's Corner

A Message from Iowa House Speaker and Chair of the ALEC Center to Restore the Balance of Government Linda Upmeyer

Federalism is the linchpin of America's system of governance. It is woven so seamlessly into the fabric of our nation that it escapes notice until the delicate balance between local, state and national governance is disrupted. In spite of its impact on almost every aspect of our lives, federalism is often treated as a lofty concept, rather than a common sense system that employs the simple logic that real solutions are found in the fifty laboratories of democracy, not one-size fits all federal government policies that disregard regional differences and local community needs.

When I launched the ALEC Center to Restore the Balance of Government, I pledged that the Center would provide practical tools to state lawmakers to strengthen federalism within their states and to recognize federal encroachment into areas better left to state control. To further that goal, the Center Newsletter will launch a new series called the ***Chairman's Corner***, which will be a regular segment authored by a state lawmaker highlighting a specific state sovereignty topic taking place in the legislator's state. Exposing the real world challenges that state lawmakers face every day will provide pragmatic best practices for some of our legislator readers and will help to make federalism come alive for the non-legislators in the Newsletter's audience who do not live them every day. The first topic in the series is **"Health Care and the Individual Insurance Market"**

International Democracy

Taiwan Offers a Glimmer of Hope for Democracy

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force



After many decades of forward progress, rule of law and democratic norms are in a global free fall. Countries that were once solid members of the democratic community such as Turkey, Venezuela, Poland and the Philippines have slid toward authoritarian rule imposing media restrictions, weakening their judiciaries and even dissolving legislative chambers.

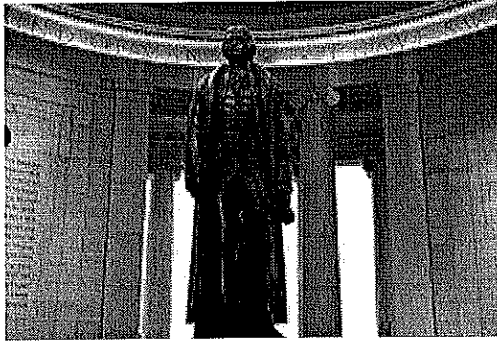
Against this bleak backdrop, Taiwan's tenacious grasp on freedom despite challenges from its cross-strait neighbor is remarkable and

emblematic of this island democracy's power and appeal. [Read more about this democratic success story.](#)

Focus on Federalism

2018: The Year of the States

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force

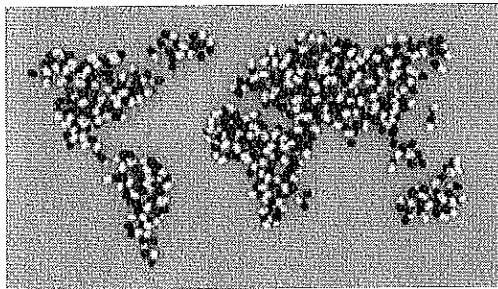


Conventional wisdom holds that 2018 is the "Year of the Woman." There is no doubt that women have and will continue to figure prominently this year, however I predict that we will also look back on 2018 as [the year of the states.](#)

Intellectual Property Update

The Global Innovation Policy Center Releases the Sixth Edition of the *International IP Index*

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force



Enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, intellectual property rights are part of America's constitutional heritage. Millions of American jobs owe their existence to the innovation economy and IP-intensive industries tend to offer higher wages than other industries. With globalization, strong domestic IP rights protections are no longer sufficient – America's economic partners also need to uphold similarly robust IP protection and enforcement standards. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's *International Intellectual Property Index* is an invaluable contribution because it tracks global adherence to IP norms and articulates the economic benefits enjoyed by countries that enforce strong IP protections. Read more [here.](#)

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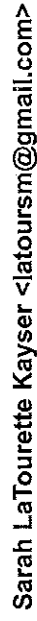
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

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**Fireworks Industry Raises Concerns About Possible Change To
Legalization Bill**

Prosecutors, Public Defender Spar Over Protection Order Bill

Appeals Court Rules Ed Board Met Lawfully Before ECOT Vote

**Issue 1 Officially Titled; Slaby Backs Out Of Reelection Bid; Gavarone
Opponent Left Off Ballot; Clyde Wants Funding For Voting Machines...**

**Oil, Gas Leasing Commission Schedules First Meeting; Congress
Members Request Federal Support For Nuclear Plants....**

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, February 27, 2018

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Health, Human Services & Medicaid

HBMENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice **111** registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination.
■ **(CONTINUED-AMENDED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)**

The committee adopted an amendment from Chairman Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville) that restores the grandfathering status of those who did not convert their certificates of authority to an advanced practice registered nursing license.

The addition is needed, Sen. Burke said, after a mix-up in a prior bill (HB216, 131st General Assembly) led to an oversight that rendered those impacted unable to practice. He added that the impacted group is likely "not voluminous" at this point.

HB ANATOMICAL GIFTS (Antani, N.) Regarding anatomical gifts, transplantation, and discrimination on **332** the basis of disability. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) said his proposal was inspired in part by a 2013 report by the Autistic Self Advocacy Network that found individuals with mental and physical disabilities have been historically denied organ transplants based on their conditions.

"Ohio residents in need of organ transplants are entitled to assurances that they will not encounter discrimination based on a disability," he said. "A physical or intellectual disability should not bar someone from life-saving healthcare. As well, those living with disabilities like Down syndrome or autism can live full and joyful lives and should not be denied a transplant on a medical basis."

Five states, including neighboring Pennsylvania, have adopted such legislation, he said. Three more are currently considering following suit.

"This type of discrimination occurs because of lack of legislation on the issue, and we need to close that gap to prevent individuals with disabilities from being denied the transplants that they need," Rep. Antani said. "House Bill 332 would create a solution to this by ensuring these individuals with disabilities will receive the same treatment on organ transplant waitlists as everyone else."

Responding to Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo), Rep. Antani said he has heard from individuals who have been denied a transplant due to Down syndrome. They will testify, he said, if the schedule permits.

"We don't have any hard data (on how often this happens) because there really is no requirement for tracking why someone is denied," Rep. Antani said. "My guess is it is not a lot, but my argument is even if it happens once, it is once too many."

Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) said he is "stunned" the bill is needed. "On the face of it, as you testified, I absolutely agree with you 100%," he added.

The sponsor said he had the same reaction upon first being approached about the idea. "I really think it is a lack of knowledge that someone with Down syndrome or autism can live a life expectancy of a normal human being and can comply with post-operation regiments like any of us can," he said.

Answering Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London), the sponsor said the bill's definition of "disability" is in line with that found in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

HB PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Young, R.) Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical **340** assistance recipients. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) discussed the genesis of his proposal, which he said came from his county commissioner as well as local Job and Family Services agencies.

He bemoaned the isolation that has developed among various facets of public assistance computer systems, which he said undercuts efficiencies and stymies support. The legislation would increase information sharing efforts, he said, in an attempt to streamline and better serve Ohioans.

"It is time that the legislature takes action to correct what has become grossly inefficient," Rep. Young said.

The legislation has the support of the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association, the Public Children Services Association and the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, he said. It passed the House unanimously and the information sharing in question in no way violates federal or state law, he added.

The measure would also aid fraud detection efforts, he said. Those investigations today are conducted manually "system by system in a very time consumer inefficient manner."

"With this tool in hand, an investigator could quickly view a client's total portfolio of services and detect inconsistencies between the various state public assistance files," he said. "This can be accomplished quickly and efficiently to help determine that the client's vital information is accurately and uniformly reported in all of Ohio's Public Assistance Systems."

SB MEDICAID PROVIDERS (Lehner, P.) Regarding surety bonds and minimum training for certain **218** Medicaid providers. (CONTINUED-AMENDED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

SB COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION (Thomas, C.) To allow a cottage food production operator to use a **233** firebrick oven located on a patio at the operator's residence for purposes of the cottage food production operation (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Charolett Phoenix and Tia Watson requested support for the legislation, which they said would assist in growing their cottage-based bread bakery business. Current law, they said, has proven hindrance to that endeavor.

The law now states that such businesses may only use a residential oven located within the home to bake non-potentially hazardous food products to be sold. Making artisanal bread, which requires adequate space and baking time, can be greatly hindered by cramped residential ovens, they said. The small space makes the business less productive, they added.

"We are requesting that an amendment be made to the Ohio Cottage Food Law permitting the use of an outdoor stand-alone wood fire brick oven on the premises of the home to accommodate a cottage-based bread business," Ms. Phoenix said. "The benefits of this amendment...is that it will increase the productivity and opportunity for success and growth without excessive overhead costs for cottage-based bread businesses."

Sen. Burke thanked the witnesses and said he hopes to get the bill in shape to pass "expeditiously." He added it's a matter of "wordsmithing" at this point and that his conversations with Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) will continue.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Feb. 27.

Judiciary

SB PROTECTION ORDERS ([Hottinger, J.](#)) To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a **171** protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of **171** violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

SB DOGS LAW ([Beagle, B.](#)) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious **195** dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of **195** certain violations of that Law. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

Prior to hearing testimony, two amendments offered by [Sen. Peggy Lehner](#) (R-Kettering) were accepted. They are designed to require notification of an investigation and to remove vet techs and dog wardens from making euthanasia determinations, she said.

Tequila Ann Williams-Madison said in proponent testimony that her grandmother was attacked and killed by a pit bull in 2015.

"We create laws daily against people for the safety of the people," she said. "What is so different about creating laws, safety measures, to protect the people from dangerous animals? Is our life less important because it's better to be hurt, scarred forever, or killed by a dog than another person?"

Corey Roscoe, state director for the Humane Society of the United States, said in written interested party testimony that the measure will both strengthen dangerous dog laws and provide owners with due process.

Sharon Harvey, president and CEO of the Cleveland Animal Protective League, in written proponent testimony asked for changes to the bill, including the removal of humane societies as locations for court-ordered euthanasia.

"Humane societies enforce the animal protection laws," she wrote. "County dog wardens enforce the dangerous dog laws. While individual humane societies may elect to assist with court-ordered euthanasia, it is not the role of humane societies to do so."

Rodney Cook, president of the Northwest Ohio Dog Wardens and Animal Control Officers' Association, also called for several changes to the bill in written proponent testimony, including increased penalties when dogs are not properly confined before an attack resulting in injuries or death.

The panel also received written testimony in support from Wood County Chief Dog Warden Andrew Snyder.

SB OFFENDER DATABASE ([Gardner, R.](#)) To provide for a violent offender database, require violent **231** offenders to enroll in the database, and name those provisions of the act "Sierah's Law;" to modify the **231** membership and duties of the Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and eliminate its repeal; to require halfway houses to use the single validated risk assessment tool for adult offenders that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has developed; and to provide that the notice of release from prison of specified serious offense offenders that is given to sheriffs is to be the same as that provided to prosecuting attorneys and eliminate the notice to sheriffs regarding pardons, commutations, paroles, and transitional control transfers of offenders. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED (No testimony)**; 2nd Hearing-Possible amendments)

An amendment offered by [Sen. Bill Coley](#) (R-Liberty Twp.) was accepted.

Sponsoring [Sen. Randy Gardner](#) (R-Bowling Green) explained that the amendment provides an offender an opportunity to request that they be removed from the database if they can prove by a preponderance of evidence

that they were not the principal offender.

Another change, he said, allows for an offender to remain on the database if they are convicted of another offense in the 10-year period they are listed.

"I'm pleased to provide this additional degree of judicial discretion," Sen. Gardner said.

SB PROSTITUTION (Dolan, M., Manning, G.) To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution.
244 (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Lou Tobin, executive director of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, praised the measure as providing "for an increased penalty for individuals with previous convictions for promoting prostitution."

He also said it will provide a deterrent.

John Morgan of the Cuyahoga Regional Human Trafficking Task Force said the measure will aid in prosecuting individuals for human trafficking.

"By providing the means to adequately penalize offenders, these increased penalties are necessary changes the justice system needs to counter this cruel industry," he said.

In written proponent testimony, Attorney General Mike DeWine said the legislation will help to combat human trafficking in the state.

"We must send the traffickers a message: that we will not stand by and watch as they enslave our families, friends and neighbors through addiction and trafficking," he said.

SBCRIMINAL LAWS (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by
66 including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. **(REPORTED; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Patrick Higgins of the Office of the Ohio Public Defender said in written proponent testimony that the measure will go a long way toward improving the criminal justice system.

He highlighted a provision that expands the principal purpose of felony sentencing to include promoting the rehabilitation of offenders.

"In order to truly reduce crime, our criminal justice system must focus on, not only protecting the public, but also rehabilitation," he wrote. "The data shows rehabilitation focused programming - things like access to education, job training, mental health counseling, and substance abuse counseling, are linked to reductions in recidivism, whereas, longer prison sentences are not."

Mr. Higgins also touted provisions of the bill to remove the one-year minimum requirement for certain community control sentences and to expand intervention in lieu of conviction.

Governor's Appointments: The committee recommended full Senate approval for the appointments of Mark Wasylyshyn, Michael Staley, Brian Simms and Jay Beighley to the Ohio Private Investigation and Security Services Commission.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the committee's website under Feb. 27.

Government Oversight & Reform

HB FIREWORKS (Seitz, B., Sweeney, M.) To establish a fireworks study group to review and make **226** recommendations regarding the Fireworks Law, to extend to July 1, 2020, the moratorium on issuing fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, to eliminate, beginning January 1, 2021, the moratorium on geographic transfer of fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, and, beginning July 1, 2020, to impose a fee on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks in this state and to expand the ability of individuals to obtain 1.3G display fireworks and obtain and use 1.4G consumer fireworks. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.) To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. **221** (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-Opponent-Possible amendments)

A substitute bill offered by Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) was adopted without objection.

The substitute version makes several technical corrections and allows the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review to request an explanation of the relationship between a fee imposed by a rule and the costs incurred by the agency, according to Sen. Uecker.

Chairman Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) said the bill is likely to be voted on at the panel's next meeting.

SB REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.) To modify the law concerning regional councils **239** of governments. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-Opponent)

SR COLUMBUS CREW (Kunze, S.) To urge the investor-operator and chairperson of Columbus Crew Soccer **342** Club to keep the franchise in Columbus. (REPORTED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Donald Murray, testifying on behalf of Jeni Britton Bauer, founder of Jeni's Ice Cream, said the loss of Ohio's only Major League Soccer franchise would be a blow to the city of Columbus.

"Its presence is a vital part of what makes this city and state so attractive to the amazing and innovative population we have, and in attracting new business and people to our incredible city," he said.

Nate DeMars, owner of Pursuit, echoed those sentiments.

"Columbus and Ohio have been pioneers in American soccer and have drawn the attention of the world on numerous occasions, solidifying Columbus as a forward thinking city on the rise and changing perceptions of the state of Ohio," he wrote. "Losing Crew SC would be a large step backwards for a city, region, and state with such lofty forward ambitions."

The panel also received proponent testimony from Jo Rodgers of Save the Crew, Bruce Wimbish of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission and Karen Crognale.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the committee's website under Feb. 27.

Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs

HB LICENSE PLATES (Johnson, T., Craig, H.) To establish a program for the issuance of special license **194** plates related to military service and awards. (REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

The committee accepted a technical amendment from Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) that retains the Purple Heart license plate in existing law because it is associated with an exemption from registration fees.

Additionally, the amendment removes the Ohio National Guard Ohio Cross plate from codified law and requires the registrar of motor vehicles to reestablish it under the program created by the measure.

"It also requires registrar of motor vehicles to establish the Army Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, the Air Force Cross and the Coast Guard Cross license plates," Sen. Wilson said. "These plates were not included in the original program and in the language of the bill it simply needed to be added."

HB AWARENESS DAY (Thompson, A.) To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day." (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Jason Rutledge, representing an outreach group called Save22, urged support and described his own experience suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder following his service in the United States Marine Corps.

"Six years it took for me to seek help. For six years I refused to believe that things like depression or PTSD even existed," he said in written testimony. "I complained if someone would use excuses like PTSD or any of the myriad of mental health labels. Ladies and gentlemen, I promise you all I was wrong."

HB DAY DESIGNATION (Romanchuk, M., Wiggam, S.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." 229 (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Four members of the public asked the panel to support the idea of designating Feb. 3 in honor of Ohio-born Charles Follis, the first African American professional football player in the U.S.

James Stoner said he wrote a play titled "The Black Cyclone" recounting Mr. Follis' story. He is also developing and marketing a screenplay by the same name to share the story with a wider audience.

"When one examines Charles' life, one sees a life of extraordinary accomplishments that have been largely overlooked for more than a century," Mr. Stoner said. "He is an example for all to follow for his character."

William Bridges, who has participated in the aforementioned play, said Mr. Follis paved the way for Jackie Robinson's historic and more well-known role in breaking the race barrier in professional baseball.

Anessa McGregor said the story "serves as a reminder of how the face of racism is constantly changing. He never changed who he was or let the attacks on him change his direction."

And Steve Jefferson added that the Black Cyclone "(blew) open the doors of opportunity for a multitude of African Americans to excel, flourish and be recognized in all areas and levels of both collegiate and professional sports."

HB MONTH DESIGNATION (Gonzales, A.) To designate September as "We Card Month." 307 (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Terry Fleming, speaking on behalf of the Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers, acknowledged that bills designating particular days or months aren't always received with "great enthusiasm" by lawmakers.

"But this is one that I think can and will make a difference," he said. "Let me be very clear that AFPD members strive to make sure that underage sales of tobacco product and alcohol are strictly enforced at all times - not just in September."

The legislation, he said, would be another way to highlight the importance of the issue. The association will offer "We Card" signs for businesses to visibly post each September, he added.

"This is a very simple bill but in a small way it addresses the very serious problem of underaged purchases of alcohol or tobacco products," Mr. Fleming said.

SB SMOKING (Tavares, C.) To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle in which a child under six years of age 106 is a passenger. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) requested support for her proposal to prohibit smoking in any vehicle in which a child under six is present and said she would be open to the idea of adding vaping to the legislation's provisions.

Smoking would be defined by inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or other lighted smoking device for burning tobacco or any other plant. Violators would be fined \$500 for the first offense with additional violations carrying fines of \$500 plus \$250 per violation.

"Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 substances, several of which are known to cause cancer in humans or animals," Sen. Tavares said. "Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of secondhand smoke because they are still developing physically, have higher breathing rates than adults, and have little control over their indoor environments. Children exposed to high doses of secondhand smoke run the greatest relative risk of experiencing damaging health effects."

She cited data from the American Cancer Society and the U.S. Surgeon General showing secondhand smoke causes premature death and conditions including acute respiratory infections, ear problems, asthma, sudden infant death syndrome and more.

"Americans spend a great deal of time in their cars, and if someone smokes there, hazardous levels of smoke can build up quickly," the sponsor said. "Young children are not able to decide for themselves if they want to enter a vehicle with a smoker and are at the mercy of the driver. Senate Bill 106 will afford protection to some of our most vulnerable citizens."

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) who questioned whether vaping is covered by the plan. Sen. Tavares said it is not but she is amenable to changing that if the panel concurs. "We still don't know the levels of chemicals that are going into the lungs of those who vape," she said.

Governor's Appointments: The panel also recommended full Senate approval for the appointment of Scott Arthur to the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Feb. 27.

Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

HB MONTH DESIGNATION (Riedel, C.) To designate May as "Drive Ohio Byways Month."
159 (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) said his bill designates the month of May as "Drive Ohio Byways Month" to encourage tourists to take advantage of Ohio attractions such as Cedar Point, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Hocking Hills, among others.

With children out of school for the summer, May begins the tourism season for Ohio's 27 byways, the sponsor said.

"The byways accent Ohio's rolling hills, Lake Erie beaches, and national parks that make Ohio a special place to visit," Rep. Riedel told the committee.

HB WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTS (Ingram, C., Seitz, B.) To modify the provisions concerning the transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances.
195 (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) won approval of a substitute bill that she said clarifies that disabled persons in wheelchairs should use only ambulette transportation for medical and emergency rides to hospitals and to other emergency related locations.

Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) added that the bill overall decreases regulations on usage of Uber, Lyft and taxis for those who are disabled or in wheelchairs, except in the case of emergency and medical rides.

John Ballard of the Tri-County Independent Living Center said the bill is important for the Employment First initiative, because more Ohioans will be able to find and maintain jobs and enjoy their independence.

Transportation expenditures for the Ohio Medicaid Home Choice Program will decrease because of this bill, Mr. Ballard said. In the Tri-County area, Medicaid's per trip costs has been reduced by 80% because of ride sharing services, he explained.

Katherine Thomas, of the Ohio Association of Centers for Independent Living, said in written testimony the current requirement that a licensed ambulette transport a person who uses a wheel chair for non-medical and non-emergency rides creates unnecessary barriers to businesses willing to transport them. It also creates additional difficulty for a person in a wheel chair to get transportation, she said.

This legislation takes steps to remove barriers to businesses and to increase the variety and availability of cost-effective transportation for people with mobility impairments, Ms. Thomas said in testimony.

HB ELECTRIC BICYCLES (Brinkman, T.) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles.
250 (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

"This bill is an effort to boost small businesses and reduce consumer confusion, to update our laws in accordance with evolving bicycle technology and in line with other state and federal regulations and to allow more cyclists to use e-bikes, especially those whose abilities are limited due to age, disability, or physical capacity," sponsor Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) said.

Ohio is among nearly 20 states without legislation that regulates electric bicycles, he said. This bill aligns traffic regulations with the three classifications set by the e-bike industry's model policy and includes restrictions for higher speed Class 3 e-bikes to ensure they are used safely.

In addition, the legislation mandates a uniform labeling system to assist law enforcement and land managers in identifying the e-bikes when necessary, the sponsor added.

The provision of the bill prohibiting e-bikes on natural surface trails was amended at the request of the Central Ohio Mountain Biking Organization to allow state or local authorities to determine if e-bikes harm natural surfaces trails and to permit them in the future, Rep. Brinkman explained.

Similar legislation has passed in Tennessee, California, Colorado, Arkansas, Utah and is pending in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Connecticut and New York, he said. The bill has the support of all interested parties from the bicycle industry and the Ohio to Erie Trail Board.

Rep. Brinkman told Sen. LaRose that the bill codifies e-bike standards in accordance with other state legislation and aligns with nationwide manufacturing standards.

HB LICENSE FEES (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee
Amnesty Initiative. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Patrick Higgins said the Ohio Poverty Law Center supports the pilot program created by the bill, which would prohibit driver's license reinstatement fees under certain circumstances.

A Cleveland.com study discovered that in ZIP codes where most residents live below 200% of the poverty level, there are 99 license suspensions for every 1,000 residents, Mr. Higgins said.

"With this pilot program, low-income Ohioans will have the opportunity to reinstate their driver's licenses and travel to places like work, training, treatment, and the grocery store without further jeopardizing an already-precarious relationship with the legal system," Mr. Higgins told the committee.

Bonnie Robinson, a social worker and case manager at the Lorain/Medina Community Based Correctional Facility, submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

Ms. Robinson said she has worked with many individuals who have faced further challenges because they were not able to pay the reinstatement fees to obtain their license after a suspension.

"When we pile up negative consequences on them and offer little to no help, we are not going to encourage them to turn their lives around," she wrote.

Antwan Taylor submitted written testimony explaining that his license was suspended from 2007 until 2011 for possession of marijuana. Mr. Thompson said he believes having his license suspended throughout junior high school limited his opportunities in the future.

Jon Peak submitted written testimony describing the challenge of getting to work or to court when his license was suspended in an area without public transportation.

Justin Tallman gave his support to the legislation in written testimony as someone who has had a license suspension imposed with a substantial fine.

HCRANTI-SEMITISM (Thompson, A., Greenspan, D.) To condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions 10 movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Chris Long of the Ohio Christian Alliance supported the resolution to denounce the "Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions" movement, or BDS, against Israel and the increase of anti-Semitic incidents on Ohio college campuses.

Mr. Long said the Holocaust began with boycotts and discrimination and described the escalation of anti-Jewish laws to the tragedy of Kristallnacht.

"The recent boycotts and sanctions movement by some groups on college campuses in Ohio have created an atmosphere of fear and intimidation of Jewish students, as the State of Israel has been targeted, Jews specifically," Mr. Long said, adding that an incident recently occurred at Ohio University on the eve of the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur.

Sen. LaRose said the resolution is particularly important in Ohio, with its rich history of standing against bigotry and injustice and as the home to many Holocaust liberators and survivors.

Mr. Long said the increasing threats to Jewish students on Ohio college campuses are intolerable and raising awareness of the issue will foster an atmosphere that allows for freedom.

Michael Goldstein said the organization Proclaiming Justice to the Nations believes the resolution is a turning point for the state and its universities, with important implications for First Amendment freedom of expression.

"On our college campuses in Ohio and throughout the nation, BDS practices anti-Semitism and promotes its spread among the entire student body, including our children and grandchildren," Mr. Goldstein told the committee.

Anti-Semitism problems on college campuses have increased nationally by 40% from 2015 to 2016, he said.

Ohio State University saw an increase of 10 incidents and ranks fifth out of 15 schools for the highest incidence of BDS activity on campuses and Oberlin College made the list of Highest Incidence of Anti-Semitic Expression on campus, he added.

"Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions of Israel, or BDS, is simply said another form of anti-Semitism for the purpose of delegitimizing Israel and the discrimination against and elimination of the Jewish people in the Middle East," said Edward Douglas, Ohio director for Christians United for Israel.

Joseph Abdallah, president of the Hillel chapter at John Carroll University and a student at the university, testified to a conflict between the Hillel chapter and the Muslim Student Society over a speaker that was brought to campus by the Cleveland Hillel and Christina United for Israel.

Mr. Abdallah explained that a previous incident occurred as the result of a speaker brought to campus by Hillel, which influenced the university administration's response to the recent conflict.

After the recent grievances were filed, the university faculty and administrators told the Hillel chapter that discussion of certain topics by the speaker should be limited, Mr. Abdallah said. Since then, the organization has focused on pro-Jewish events rather than pro-Israel events.

Sen. Kunze asked if anti-Jewish sentiment has changed from his first to his third year at the university. Mr. Abdallah said he has worked to bring more pro-Jewish activities and inter-faith activities to campus and the group's membership has grown under his leadership.

Sen. Kunze asked if the increased presence of the group has invited anti-Jewish attacks. Mr. Abdallah replied that his organization has never been threatened but some students are nervous to display religious symbols in their residence halls and to express their Jewish identity. Mr. Abdallah added that he believes they are at a much better place now than they were a few years before.

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies are available on the committee [website](#) under Feb. 27.

Finance

HBCEMETERY REGISTRATION (Stein, D.) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the **168** Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (**REPORTED (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBSUBDIVISION INVESTMENTS (Greenspan, D.) To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of **251** other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund. (**REPORTED (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)


SB CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law **266** governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; Presentation from OBM Director Tim Keen)

Governor's Appointments: The committee recommended full Senate approval of the governor's appointments of Pamela Mowry to the North Central State College Board of Trustees and Jo Ann Davidson and Ranjan Manoranjan to the Ohio Casino Control Commission.

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, February 28

Legislative Committees

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

SB ABORTION (Uecker, J.) Regarding final disposition of fetal remains from surgical abortions. (3rd Hearing-28 All testimony-Possible vote)

HB STROKE PATIENTS (Lipps, S., Antonio, N.) To provide for recognition of stroke centers and 464 establishment of protocols for assessment, treatment, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB FLU VACCINES (Hagan, C.) To prohibit an employer from taking an adverse employment action against a 193 person who has not been or will not be vaccinated against influenza. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 9 a.m.

HB CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law 529 governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Pending referral)

HB OHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the Ohio Corps Pilot Project and to make an 508 appropriation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB BROADBAND GRANTS (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program 378 and to make an appropriation. (6th Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB ENERGY TAX EXEMPTION (Schaffer, T.) To expand the scope of a sales and use tax exemption for 430 certain kinds of property used in the production of oil and gas. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS (Ginter, T.) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans 24 organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB OHIO RESIDENCY (Scherer, G.) To modify the test for determining an individual's state of residence for 292 income tax purposes. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10 a.m.

SB COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSES (LaRose, F.) To require the Director of Public Safety to seek 170 approval from the United States Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to implement a temporary pilot program regarding the waiver of the skills test for a commercial driver's license that applies to present and former military personnel. (1st Hearing-All testimony)

HB LICENSE PLATE (Greenspan, D., Fedor, T.) To create the "Stop Bullying" license plate. (1st Hearing-All 481 testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB LICENSE PLATE (Reece, A.) To create the "Amaranth Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star" license

447plate. (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBDRIVER'S LICENSES (Scherer, G., Sheehy, M.) To require a person to hold a temporary instruction permit for one year before obtaining a probationary driver's license and to alter the time periods during which the holder of a temporary instruction permit or probationary driver's license is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle without being accompanied by a parent or guardian. (4th Hearing-Interested party-Possible amendments & vote)

HBREGIONAL AIRPORTS (Butler, J., Zeltwanger, P.) To create the Major Air Hub Council, to require the Council to construct two commercial service airports, one in Fayette County and one in Portage County, and to create the Southern Ohio Airport Authority and the Northern Ohio Airport Authority to operate the airports. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

HBSPONSOR RATINGS (Rogers, J., Patterson, J.) To require the Department of Education to attribute any community school sponsor ratings an entity received during its relationship with a state university board of trustees to that entity even if it no longer has a relationship with the university. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Energy & Natural Resources (Committee Record) (Chr. Balderson, T., 466-8076), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session

HB OIL GAS WELLS (Thompson, A.) To modify the law governing idle and orphaned oil and gas wells. (2nd Hearing-Proponent & opponent)

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 3 p.m. or after session

HBSUBSTANCE ABUSE (Young, R.) To require the Department of Health to publish monthly drug overdose death information for each county, to create grant programs to support faith-based substance abuse services, to authorize an income tax deduction for physicians providing such services for free, and to allocate funds and make an appropriation for the grant programs. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HBMONTH DESIGNATION (Sykes, E., Boyd, J.) To designate the month of November as Ohio Adoption Awareness Month. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBPRIVATE IMAGES (Rogers, J., Manning, N.) To prohibit the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images, to require that certain property involved in the offense be criminally forfeited, and to create certain legal rights and employment protections of a victim of the offense. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBADULT CHILDREN (Galonski, T.) Regarding parental disposition of a deceased adult child. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBMARRIAGE AGE (Lanese, L., Rogers, J.) To make changes to the laws governing the ages at which persons may marry. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 313, 3 p.m. or after session

HBCOSMETOLOGY LAW (Roegner, K., Reece, A.) To make changes to the Cosmetology Licensing Law. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

SB WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (LaRose, F.) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside. (4th Hearing-

All testimony-Possible vote)

Senate Education (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of John Wells, Ohio Higher Education Facility Commission

SB NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS (Terhar, L., Thomas, C.) To establish a category of nonpublic schools called 241 "accredited nonpublic schools" and to prescribe requirements and exemptions for such schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB SCHOOL ABSENCES (Williams, S., Lehner, P.) To require a public school to place a telephone call within 82 one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB ACADEMIC YEAR (Manning, G.) To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for 34 instruction after Labor Day. (5th Hearing-Proponent)

SB SCHOOL REGULATIONS (Huffman, M.) To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding 216 the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HBTENURED FACULTY (Young, R.) To establish the Undergraduate Mission Study Committee to evaluate 66 each state university's efforts to secure participation in the undergraduate mission by the university's tenured faculty members. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HBCOMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Hambley, S.) Regarding verification of community school enrollments. (3rd 21 Hearing-All testimony)

HBCAREER INFORMATION (Duffey, M., Boggs, K.) Regarding the presentation of career information to 98 students. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security. (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 116, 4 p.m. or after session

SB FIREARMS (Terhar, L.) To waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed forces 81 and retired and honorably discharged veterans, to accept military experience with firearms as proof of competency with firearms regardless of when the applicant for a license acquired the experience, to permit a licensee to renew a concealed handgun license at any time before the expiration of the license, and to require the Attorney General to monitor the number of license fees waived and cap the total amount allowed to be waived at \$1.5 million. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

HB DAY DESIGNATION (Schaffer, T.) To designate July 16 as "National Atomic Veterans Day" in Ohio. 414 (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HCRHEALTHCARE (Schaffer, T.) To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the Mark Takai Atomic 21 Veterans Healthcare Parity Act. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB MILITARY LEAVE (Perales, R., Boyd, J.) To grant full-time state employees paid leave for the purpose 468 of attending medical examinations and appointments provided through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Agency Calendar

Residential Construction Advisory Committee, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m.

Vision Professionals Board, 77 S. High Street, Room 1948, Columbus, 9 a.m.

State Personnel Board of Review, 12th Fl., 65 E. State St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) fundraiser, The Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair \$350 to Citizens to Elect Kyle Koehler)

Ohio Farm Bureau Ag Day at the Capital, Sheraton Hotel, 75 E. State Street, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) fundraiser, Olivers, 26 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair \$350 to Friends of Steve Arndt)

Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) fundraiser, Jimmy V's, 912 S. High Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Team West. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

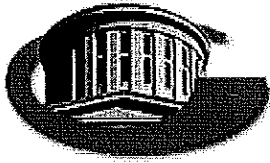
Ohio Democratic Party state executive committee meeting, Ohio Democratic Party headquarters, 340 E. Fulton St., Columbus, 7 p.m.

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House Activity for Tuesday, February 27, 2018

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

HCR GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS (Riedel, C., Holmes, G.) To urge Congress to propose the
24 ■ Regulation Freedom Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

INTRODUCED

HBLODGING TAX (Hambley, S., Arndt, S.) To authorize local elected officers that have levied a hotel lodging
530 excise tax, or a designee of such officers to simultaneously hold the position of officer or member of the
■ board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau without constituting incompatible offices. Am. 3.111

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

SB DRUG OFFENSES (LaRose, F.) To increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, drug possession
1 ■ violations, and aggravated funding of drug trafficking when the drug involved in the offense is a fentanyl-
related compound, to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of
permitting drug abuse, and to add lisexamfetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

HBSEX OFFENSES (Hughes, J.) To increase the penalty for sexual imposition when the offender previously
96 has been convicted or pleaded guilty three or more times of any of several specified sex offenses and to
■ repeal the corroboration requirement for a sexual imposition conviction.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

HBDEBT ADJUSTING (Seitz, B.) Regarding debt adjusting.

182
■ Wednesday, Feb. 28

HBACCESSIBILITY LAWS (McColley, R., Rezabek, J.) To authorize an alleged aggrieved party to provide a
271 notice of an alleged accessibility law violation in advance of filing a civil action and to establish the
■ circumstances under which an alleged aggrieved party is entitled to attorney's fees in a civil action based on
the violation.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

HBPARENTAL RIGHTS (Gonzales, A., Rezabek, J.) To generally prohibit a person's blindness from being
309 used to deny or limit custody, parenting time, visitation, adoption, or service as a guardian or foster
■ caregiver, regarding a minor.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

HBPROPERTY TAX (Merrin, D.) To exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for **371**residential development until construction commences or the land is sold.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

HBWATER SEWER ACQUISITIONS (Ginter, T., Rogers, J.) To govern acquisitions of municipal water-**422**works and sewage disposal system companies by certain larger nonmunicipal water-works or sewage disposal system companies.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

REFERRED

Community & Family Advancement:

HBPARENTAL RIGHTS (Pelanda, D.) Regarding child rehoming and nonjudicial grants of parental rights. **515**

HBABUSE REPORTING (Lanese, L., Perales, R.) To establish animal abuse reporting requirements, to **523**require the Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program to be notified when a person serving in the armed forces is investigated for child abuse or neglect or domestic violence, and to modify the laws regulating counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists.

Criminal Justice:

HBHUMAN TRAFFICKING (Miller, A., Hughes, J.) To increase the penalty for soliciting when the person **520**solicited is eighteen years of age or older, to specify that the fine for soliciting in this circumstance is not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, and to specify that up to one thousand dollars of that fine may be deposited into the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund.

Education & Career Readiness:

HB 517 MONTH DESIGNATION (Schaffer, T., Leland, D.) To designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month."

Energy & Natural Resources:

HB 518 SPORTING LICENSURE (Dever, J., Cera, J.) To make changes to the laws governing hunting and fishing.

Government Accountability & Oversight:

HBLIQUOR PERMITTING (Lanese, L.) To allow an outdoor refreshment area to include F liquor permit

522holders.

HB TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K.) To extend eligibility for the motion picture tax credit to certain live stage theater productions, to increase the maximum amount of credits that may be awarded from \$40 million to \$100 million per fiscal year, and to make other revisions to the law governing administration of the credit.

State & Local Government:

HB 514 **DAY DESIGNATION** (Howse, S.) To designate February 1 as "Freedom Day in Ohio."

Transportation & Public Safety:

HB 516 **ROAD NAMING** (Cera, J.) To designate a portion of State Route 78 in Monroe County as the "Sgt. Herman Zerger, Jr. Highway."

HB 519 **TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY** (West, T., Kick, D.) To create the Ohio Council on Transportation Technology to make recommendations regarding state policies related to autonomous technology.

HB 521 **LICENSE PLATE** (Boggs, K.) To create the "Girls on the Run" license plate.

Ways & Means:

HB 513 **HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION** (Brenner, A., Ginter, T.) To enhance the homestead exemption for surviving spouses of peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel killed in the line of duty.

HB 524 **COLLEGE SAVINGS** (Scherer, G., Patterson, J.) To expand the income tax deduction allowed for contributions to Ohio's 529 college savings program to include contributions to 529 programs established by other states.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Ways & Means

HB 488 **TAX LEVIES** (Hood, R., Becker, J.) To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

The sponsors were joined by a Xenia resident who cited recent examples of ballot language in arguing that current law is not adequate in terms of presenting details of replacements and other levies to taxpayers.

"Our bill seeks to update and improve information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for all forms of property tax levies," Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville) said. "These changes are necessary to ensure that Ohioans can more easily understand how a proposed tax levy may affect their property taxes. This bill will improve transparency at the ballot box with respect to property tax levies."

Mr. Hood said current ballot language for property tax levies is confusing.

"For example, under current law for a replacement levy, the ballot language gives the mills per each \$1 of valuation, which would amount to so many dollars and cents per \$100 of valuation. Very often, the dollar figure amounts to a fraction of a cent per \$100 of valuation," he said. "When looking at the ballot language currently, voters may ask themselves, what does valuation mean? Why is it only measured in \$100 increments when my property is worth more than that? We are seeking to simplify and explain the answers to these questions in the form of improved ballot language and election notices."

The sponsors propose that to remedy the confusion the phrase "taxable value" on ballot language and election notices be replaced with "fair market value" and the phrase "for each \$100 of taxable value" be changed to "for each \$100,000 of fair market value" so taxpayers would have a better picture of their direct impacts.

"Generally, most individuals understand how much their property is worth in terms of fair market value, rather than tax valuation," Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said. "By shifting the property value variable from \$100 to \$100,000 for which the property tax is weighed against, the total amount of the tax will be much closer to the actual property values of Ohioans."

Rep. Becker stressed that the goal behind the legislation isn't to "shoot down" levies, rather to provide more transparency to taxpayers. Rep. Hood added that the additional information "cuts both ways" and would also be beneficial to levy supporters.

Carolyn Blow, a self-described tax policy enthusiast, provided the panel with several examples of local property tax ballot language that she said was misleading and failed to present replacement and other proposed issues as actual tax increases.

"Obviously, these are all used to make people think replacements are renewals and/or would not raise taxes," she said. "I have heard or read one or more of these or like 'educational' phrases with just about every replacement levy promotion, and often there is no explanation anywhere in the ad, writing or speech that the levy would produce a tax increase."

"When the voter sees the current ballot, who or what is he to believe? Even with passage of this bill, I have no doubt that levies will often be promoted with the same false and/or misleading phrases, but at least the truth will be on the ballot," Ms. Blow added.

Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab), noting that county auditors often post more detailed information about property tax issues on their websites, asked about the position of the County Auditors' Association of Ohio. Rep. Hood he was unsure.

HB TAX CREDIT (Gonzales, A.) To allow a refundable income tax credit for parents of stillborn children. **507** (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) said her bill stems from a meeting she had with a constituent whose wife delivered a stillborn child.

"I learned firsthand about the unexpected cost of a stillborn child. In addition to overwhelming grief, bereaved parents also carry the financial burden associated with the death of their child, which can include the cost of an autopsy, funeral expenses, missed work time, and counseling," she said. "This bill will give grieving parents some financial relief. In House Bill 507 the existing Ohio certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth would be used as the tax documentation for the credit."

Rep. Gonzales said that on average 900 stillbirths occur in Ohio per year, which puts the state 7th in the nation for stillbirths. Similar legislation has been passed in Arizona, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Minnesota, and North Dakota, she said.

Rep. Becker questioned whether the bill should be changed so the credit is non-refundable.

SBTAX LAWS (Peterson, B.) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 22 14, 2016, into Ohio law. (**REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (On House Calendar Wednesday, Feb. 28)**; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) said the substitute only contains items that conform the state's tax code to the recent federal changes and drops some other proposals from the Department of Taxation that Tax Commissioner Joe Testa outlined in testimony last week. He said those items were not included at the request of the Senate.

As such, Rep. Scherer said the sub bill (Comparison Document) includes provisions to:

--Change dates given the original bill was introduced as a companion to House legislation on previous federal law changes.

--Clarify the definition of "dependent" in light of the federal law's elimination of certain deductions.

--Update language regarding contributions to and allowable expenditures from college savings plans, which were expanded in the federal bill to cover K-12 costs.

--Add an emergency clause so the changes would be in place for the current tax filing year.

The committee reported the bill with all but Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) in favor. She said in an interview that while she understood the logistical reasoning behind the measure, she was concerned about replicating federal law changes that impact local revenue. Ms. Boyd pointed to written testimony submitted by Policy Matters Ohio that raised concerns with the college savings, or 529 plan, language, saying that continued tax shifts were negatively impacting local school funding.

PMO's Victoria Jackson urged the committee in her testimony to not mirror the college savings plan changes, arguing that they primarily benefit the wealthy. "The tax deduction for 529 plans is already estimated to cost the state about \$22 million in the year beginning July 1. If Ohio aligns its 529 plan with the new federal law, state revenue that funds public education would likely decrease," she stated.

Greg Saul of the Ohio Society of CPAs, submitted written testimony in support of the measure, saying the group has advocated for tax simplicity for many years.

"The positive impact of SB22 will be felt by taxpayers throughout our great state in terms of simplifying the tax code and minimizing compliance costs," he wrote.

SB TAX HOLIDAY (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during 226 which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) said his bill would make permanent the pre-school year tax holiday that's been in effect due to temporary legislation for the last few years. He acknowledged that future General Assemblies may want to change some details, but that the bill would provide for a permanent template so the holiday would not have to be enacted regularly.

"Senate Bill 226, if passed, will create a permanent sales and use tax exemption on certain back-to-school items during the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday of August of each year. The intention of the sales tax holiday is to provide families with a tax break on back-to-school shopping while also stimulating economic activity for businesses," Sen. Bacon said, adding that the measure cleared the Senate unanimously.

"The tax exemption will apply to items of clothing costing \$75 or less per item. It will also apply to school and instructional material costing \$20 or less per item. There is no limit to the number of items that a consumer may purchase tax free."

Responding to a question from Rep. Scherer, the sponsor said the bill mirrors current language providing for the holiday through 2018.

Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) asked the sponsor of any studies had been done regarding the holidays' impacts to low-tax counties such as his versus high-tax counties like neighboring Cuyahoga County.

Sen. Bacon said there had not been, pointing to the "costly endeavor" faced by the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants when having the University of Cincinnati conduct a statewide impact study. He said he was willing to discuss potential research with ODT, and that there may be data available currently that could answer related questions.

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the [committee's website](#) under Feb. 27.

Finance

HB BROADBAND GRANTS (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program **378** and to make an appropriation. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

The committee accepted a substitute version that Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) said permits companies providing satellite internet services to apply for the grants.

It also creates a mechanism for challenging grant awards and requires applicants to have experience and capabilities for connecting broadband as well as a business plan. ([Comparison Document](#))

Tony Seegers, director of state policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau, said today's agriculture technology requires high-speed internet access.

"From information on crop yields, application rates, soil moisture levels, plant and animal health, crop maturity, weather conditions, insect damage and weed control, this wealth of data is collected in real time and transmitted via broadband networks to the cloud and then onto desktop computers or hand-held mobile devices being used in the field," he said.

Farmers can also use web-based programs for conservation, he said. Such programs can help owners understand soil types and characteristics of their farms.

High-speed internet access further impacts livestock farmers, Mr. Seegers said, adding that some dairies employ high-tech robotic milking systems.

"Broadband is necessary not just for a better run farm, but for improving our rural communities and continuing the farm for years in the future," he said.

"Retiring farmers want to leave their legacy and land to the next generation. For many, it can be difficult to interest the next generation to return to the farm and continue on the family tradition. A quality school system will be a major determining factor for where the family puts down roots," Mr. Seegers continued.

"Children in rural areas that do not have access to high speed internet will face a disadvantage to their contemporaries. The lack of broadband may mean that farmer's next generation will decide not to return to the farm but to find a community with more accommodations that will give their children the tools necessary to compete."

Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) said broadband could also impact the health of agricultural workers who may be bogged down with daily responsibilities of running farms and therefore don't seek health care regularly.

Mr. Seegers said telemedicine would provide options for farmers who can't always take the time away from work to travel into major towns.

He told Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) and Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) that he's not aware of how well satellite internet works for farmers, but data can be used up quickly.

He added that he's supportive of co-ops that work to bring broadband to certain areas of the state.

Rep. Mike O'Brien (D-Warren) said he's witnesses technology at work on dairy farms and asked about how having access to high-speed internet could help farmers increase their profit margins. Mr. Seegers said having the ability to use programs that determine how much pesticide or nutrients to place in certain areas of fields, for instance, could save farmers time and money.

HB OHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an **508** appropriation. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HBCAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law **529** governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

Criminal Justice

HBECONOMIC LOSSES (Merrin, D.) To include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of **391** economic loss as a type of economic loss for which restitution may be granted. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & substitute)

A substitute version of the measure offered by Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) was accepted to include in the definition of "economic loss" any auditing costs incurred, he said.

The new bill also limits the amount of restitution to be granted for accounting or auditing costs to be reasonable and not exceed the value of the property stolen or damaged.

Rep. George Lang (R-West Chester Twp.) questioned the definition of "reasonable."

Chairman Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) said the term is well-defined by case law.

HBDRUG TREATMENT (Antani, N.) To require that an offender serving a community control sanction or a **457** parolee who fails a drug test for heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil be held in jail or admitted to a residential treatment program for up to 30 days. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Linda Chambers - whose son's story inspired the bill - told the panel that the measure has the potential to save lives.

He son, Scottie, failed a drug test while on probation and died from an overdose four hours later.

"This was a shock to myself and my family how he could test positive and there would be no consequence with being on probation," she said. "We were unaware that he had a relapse and a violation would have made us aware of his use. We will never know if this system had worked as intended if this would have been the time that saved his life and he lived 50 more years."

Ms. Chambers said she believes jail would have been the safest place for her son after his positive drug test.

"As a citizen, I am outraged that any person on probation or parole can test positive for heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil and be allowed to leave with no accountability or recourse. With this law we take the discretion away from probation and parole officers for these drugs that are killing so many citizens," she said.

"We currently do not have enough residential treatment facilities to accommodate the need that exists in Ohio. Because of this, those struggling with substance abuse who test positive for heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil need to have somewhere to go in the meantime, and going to jail would keep them safe."

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the committee's website under Feb. 27.

State & Local Government

HB CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain **454** unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.
■ **(REPORTED (No testimony); 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

HB WEEK DESIGNATION (Patterson, J.) To designate the second week of October as "Ohio Covered **483** Bridge Week." **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)**

David Simmons, president of the Ohio Historic Bridge Association, said Ohio has the second highest number of covered bridges in the country, with 142 presenting opportunities to attract tourism.

"Over the years, covered bridges have been a huge stimulus to local economies," Mr. Simmons said. This legislation recognizes the importance of preserving covered bridges in the state, he added.

Stephanie Siegel, executive director of the Ashtabula County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, said in written testimony the major tourist attractions of northeast Ohio are Lake Erie, its wineries and covered bridges, according to a 2017 study commissioned by the bureau.

Covered bridges were an attraction for respondents of all ages, Ms. Siegel said.

"Designating the second week in October as Ohio's Covered Bridge week will allow the entire state to engage and help draw attention to attractions that cannot easily be found while passing through on an interstate," she said.

HB HEALTH DISTRICTS (Brenner, A.) To authorize city and general health districts to use credit cards in **484** accordance with prescribed requirements. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) said his bill allows health districts the same opportunity to acquire credit cards as the law allows political subdivisions.

The bill permits the use of credit cards by city and general health districts for work related expenses like purchasing office supplies and repairing or replacing damaged equipment, the sponsor said.

Debt incurred by the credit card would be paid by funds appropriated by the city or general health district, he added. If a credit card is intentionally misused, the district officer or employee would face a penalty ranging from a first-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree penalty.

The representative explained that in January, in Delaware General Health District a refrigerator which held vaccines worth \$30,000 broke down. Though the vaccines were saved and the Delaware County auditor was able to provide a check for the repairs, the inability of the district itself to pay for the repairs on a personal credit card was brought to light, he said.

Rep. Brenner said an amendment will be added at the request of Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Genoa Twp.) that would allow a current county health department to identify itself as a health district, health department, department of health, or a name that includes the term "public health," to establish uniform standards for labeling a health district.

Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) asked why this bill is being proposed at the state level. Rep. Brenner replied that a health district could include both a county and a township, so it is more efficient to handle the change at the state level.

HB STATE PROCUREMENT (Gonzales, A.) To establish the women-owned business enterprise program **492** requiring state agencies to establish women-owned business procurement goals. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) said her bill will create the women-owned business enterprise program requiring state agencies to establish women-owned business procurement goals.

Rep. Gonzales said it was recently brought to her attention that Ohio does not have an enterprise program of this kind. The enterprise program for women-owned businesses would operate like the current EDGE, or Economic Diversity, Growth, and Equity, certification program, she said.

This legislation will also protect business and personal financial information submitted by enterprise applicants and permits the director of DAS to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states with substantially similar women-owned business enterprise programs or business assistance programs, she added.

She told Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) that in order for an Ohio-based women-owned business to qualify for procurement of government contracts in other states, it must be certified in Ohio, which is not currently possible because no program has been established.

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) asked if the same problem applies to the procurement of federal contracts. Rep. Gonzales said there is a set-aside program for women-owned business enterprises for federal contracts.

HB MINORITY ENTERPRISES (Gonzales, A.) To authorize the Director of Administrative Services to enter 493 into reciprocal agreements with other states with respect to the certification of minority business enterprises and EDGE business enterprises. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Gonzales said her bill authorizes the Director of Administrative Services to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states with programs that are substantially similar to Ohio's minority business enterprises and EDGE business enterprises.

"The need for this legislation stems from some Ohio companies being shut out of other state programs because we do not have the ability to create reciprocal agreements," Rep. Gonzales told the committee.

The sponsor said the language of this bill will most likely be combined with H.B. 492 in the future.

HB 500 TOWNSHIP LAWS (Carfagna, R.) To make various changes to township law. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Carfagna said his bill would empower Ohio's 1,380 townships by authorizing them to act on many items without seeking express permission from the Ohio General Assembly.

Many of the bill's provisions are also legislative priorities for the Ohio Township Association, the sponsor said. It authorizes townships to act on certain zoning issues, create levies for permanent improvements and infrastructure, allow a political subdivision to file an issue on a ballot and to approve a road name change within the township, among others.

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) said he is concerned about eliminating the requirement for zoning approvals to go through regional or county planning commissions. Rep. Carfagna said he would discuss this issue with OTA and provide further information to the committee.

Rep. Holmes asked if the sponsor had met with county engineers and commissioners statewide. Rep. Carfagna replied that he had not but expects more dialogue in the future.

The sponsor told Rep. Holmes the language of the levy provision is broad intentionally.

Rep. Michael O'Brien (D-Warren) asked why it was necessary to include a provision that requires a board of trustees to elect a chairperson at the first meeting of each calendar year when this already happens.

Rep. Carfagna replied that this process is a courtesy but is not formally codified.

Rep. James Hoops (R-Napoleon) inquired about the provision permitting a township to require an admissions fee to a community event. The sponsor replied that this requirement excludes events at schools, parks, county fairs or events held by non-profits. Cities already have this authority, he added.

HRDRUG USE (Young, R., Ginter, T.) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in **299** supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction. **(REPORTED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Subscribers Note: Full testimonies are available on the committee website under Feb. 27.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB HOME INSPECTORS (Hughes, J.) To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio **211** Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors. **(REPORTED; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Robert Fletcher, CEO of the Ohio Association of REALTORS, testified in support. He said his organization has backed the concept for years, noting that the home inspection process is the last remaining part of real estate transactions that don't involve licensed professionals.

Under the current structure, he said anyone can claim to be a home inspector, which could leave homebuyers using people who aren't trained to provide a quality service.

He said the key reason to support the bill is that home inspections continue to be an important component of the home buying process and that Ohio's current system doesn't provide sufficient consumer protection.

Good reports, he said, enhance a purchaser's awareness of a home's condition, while a poor report can lead to a buyer learning after the fact about a costly defect that needs to be remedied. The bill, he said, would minimize the likelihood of the latter situation occurring.

Mr. Fletcher deferred questions from Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton) and Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) to later witnesses who work in the industry.

Blaine Swan of the American Society of Home Inspectors testified in support on behalf of all of the group's Ohio chapters. He said the bill establishes reasonable, but not burdensome, standards that will ensure quality work in Ohio.

The bill, he said, includes protections for consumers, enhances professionalism and helps homebuyers with the purchase process.

Mr. Swan noted that the association started as an interested party, and now supports the bill.

Rep. Stein asked if inspectors regularly receive copies of the sellers' property disclosure forms.

Mr. Swan said there is no standard practice for disclosure forms, saying that some inspectors request them while others, himself included, only trust what they see during inspections.

Home inspector BK Thompson added that he regularly requests property disclosure forms, which he said are a public record.

Rep. Arndt questioned whether a person who is brought in to inspect a single area of a home - such as a foundation or a roof - would have to be licensed as a home inspector.

Mr. Thompson said inspectors are generalists who check on 400 different areas during an inspection, adding that a roofer wouldn't have the knowledge needed to verify operations of other systems.

Dave Hoeffel, also Ohio American Society of Home Inspectors, said the bill only impacts people who enter into contracts for a home inspection for a review of an entire residential building.

James Nemastil of Nemastil Home Inspections testified in opposition, saying the bill is unnecessary given the relatively few complaints that are filed against home inspectors in Ohio.

He argued that relying on the government to certify inspectors isn't the right direction to go, saying that other states following a similar path have seen more people licensed and the quality of inspections decline. Mr. Nemastil said the rank and file members of the industry don't want the change to take place.

Mr. Nemastil said the market addresses situations involving inspectors who don't do a good job.

Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashland) questioned whether the existence of licensure could lower the public's interest in making sure they are seeking out the best person for their inspections.

Joseph Jefferys of the HomeSpection Training Institute also opposed the bill, saying real estate agents shouldn't be involved in a bill that deals with home inspectors.

He said home inspector schools such as his are already registered by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools, which he said should be involved with training requirements.

Mr. Jefferys also raised concerns that having lists of home inspectors distributed by real estate agents could be a conflict of interest. In such a case, he said real estate agents should be responsible if an inspector makes a mistake.

The bill was approved on a 12-2 vote, with Rep. Hood and Rep. Bill Dean (R-Xenia) in opposition.

HB OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harborer of a dog to **263** take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation.

■ (REPORTED; 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Written proponent testimony was submitted by Brandon Ogden of Small Business Consultants of Ohio. The bill was approved on a 10-4 vote, with Reps. Kelly, Brinkman, Lipps and Reece in opposition.

HB VETERINARY EDUCATION (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.) To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to **433** two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services.

■ (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Lori Carlson, executive director of the Licking County Humane Society, testified in support. She said the bill would provide continuing education credits for veterinarians who offer free spaying and neutering services which are in high demand at animal shelters across the state.

She said her organization doesn't have a veterinarian on staff, and while many doctors offer generous discounts for those services, the agency still spends a significant amount for those services.

She said many humane societies across the state have smaller budgets and struggle even more to pay for the service.

Granting the continuing education credit, she said, could encourage more veterinarians to donate services that the societies need.

Melanie deHaan of Shelter Outreach Services of Ohio also backed the bill, saying there is a significant need for low-cost spay and neutering services. She said estimates show that Franklin County alone has a population of 500,000 free running feral cats, adding that the bill could help limit the growth in that population.

Supportive testimony was also presented by Beth Sheehan of Coalition of Grassroots Dog and Cat Advocacy Groups; Vicki Deisner of Animal Welfare Institute; Sharon Harvey of the Cleveland Animal Protective League; Grace Vitale of National Animal Shelter Volunteers; attorney DanaMarie Pannella; Irene Fiala; Jason Cooke; Lee Schrader of the Fayette Regional Humane Society; Barbara Hodges of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association and Kellie DeFrischia of the Columbus Dog Connection.

HB 504 INTERIOR DESIGNERS (Pelanda, D.) Regarding interior designers. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville) said her proposal would establish a permissive certification process for interior designers who provide services to the commercial sector. She said the measure allows Ohio professionals to pursue business opportunities while offering new levels of protection to the public.

Current interior designers, she said, are suffering due to an overly broad state law that prevents them from practicing to their fullest capacity.

The current structure, Rep. Pelanda said, puts Ohio businesses at a disadvantage and encourages graduates to leave the state for other locations. She also said the bill could help create more competition for design services, which should lower prices for consumers.

The sponsor said the bill doesn't require designers to be certified and won't put anyone in the industry out of business. She noted that the measure doesn't impact residential interior designers and uses an existing licensing structure.

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the [committee's website](#) under February 27.

Education & Career Readiness

HB SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications **318** and responsibilities of school resource officers. (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

The committee accepted a substitute that includes provisions to: narrow the definition of a school resource officer; require all SROs to receive training in the first year of being hired; and specify that school district has final decision-making regarding school discipline. ([Comparison Document](#))

Tony Baker, the Ohio state director for Sandy Hook Promise, applauded the updates. "These improvements will help close school-to-prison pipelines and avoid zero-tolerance type enforcement," he said.

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) asked about the benefits of the training programs Sandy Hook Promise provides. Mr. Baker said students are encouraged to say something when they feel safety may be threatened.

Erin Davies with the Juvenile Justice Coalition said the legislation "provides necessary clarification on the role of SROs in school districts."

The group welcomed a provision that allows for student input on the memorandum of understanding between the school and the school resource officer detailing what services they'd be expected to provide.

"This input from youth on the role of SROs in their school is critically important to ensure that youth - who are most likely to come into contact with SROs - understand and have a say in the role of these officers in their school," Ms. Davies said.

However, students have voiced a need for additional support services, including increased access to social workers and mental health professionals, which could reduce the need for law enforcement intervention, she said.

The Ohio School Counselor Association and Wellington Exempted Village School District Board of Education also provided written testimony in support of the measure.

HB BULLYING (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. **(REPORTED-360)**
SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

Sponsoring Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) said the wide-ranging substitute bill addresses interested party concerns by requiring schools to allow victims of harassment to make up missed school work and reorganizes the tiers of discipline correlated to bullying offenses. (Comparison Document)

HB STUDENT EXPRESSION (Ginter, T., LaTourette, S.) Regarding student religious expression and to **428** entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018." **(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-Opponent)**

The legislation is unnecessary because the First Amendment already protects students' ability to pray and express religious viewpoints, said Gary Daniels, chief lobbyist for the ACLU of Ohio. It is also problematic, he said, because specifically calling out religious expression "ultimately gives religious speech more protection than secular speech."

Mr. Daniels said the bill could prohibit teachers from giving lower grades to students who debate assignments because of their religious beliefs and allow students to proselytize to students through the school public address system because religious speech must be treated in the same manner as secular speech.

"Examples like there will cause a variety of problems for public schools as, under HB428, they are apparently required to accommodate these efforts, even if it means commandeering of school property and resources to promote prayers and other religious speech," he said.

Similar proposals have been ruled unconstitutional by federal courts, he said.

"Indeed, protecting religious liberties in our schools is a laudable goal. However, there is no evidence of any widespread or notable problems of this type in Ohio," Mr. Daniels said. "In the ACLU of Ohio's experience, when problems do arise in schools, they are anomalies and we treat them as such."

Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) said he has similar concerns about the bill and imagines ACLU would be aware of a problem if one existed. The witness said the ACLU defends individual liberties and has seen "several incidents of this type" in the last 20 years, few of which have gone to court because they were resolved.

Mr. Daniels told Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) that he doesn't know how many religions exist, but the protection of all faiths is required to be the same regardless of how many individuals subscribe to a particular religion.

Responding to a question from Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield), the witness said there are different types of forums for speech protected under the First Amendment. A school often creates a limited-public forum, but that couldn't happen under the bill.

HB EDUCATION LICENSE (Edwards, J.) To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute **491** license to specified pupil services personnel. **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)**

Sally Demmler, director of intervention and support services for the Hamilton County Educational Service Center, said the bill would allow schools to address critical needs linked to the shortage of individuals licensed to fill service-related jobs in schools.

"Often, there is a properly credentialed individual who may be retired or working in a private setting who has the professional license but does not have the ODE license," she said. "Many of these individuals have expressed a desire to work as a short-term or long-term substitute in a school setting, but decline employment offers because

of the additional ODE licensure requirement. They also have no desire or intention to work permanently in the schools."

The bill would allow such individuals to take on jobs in a handful of areas, including speech-language pathology, audiology and physical therapy.

Language guards against schools using substitute instead of full-time employees by specifying that related service personnel with a substitute license cannot be employed without satisfying additional licensure requirements, Ms. Demmler said.

Craig Burford, executive director of the Ohio Educational Service Center Association, also supported the measure.

"Ohio continues to face a significant shortage of related services personnel in school districts across the state; this is true in both permanent and substitute positions," he said. "HB491 helps to address this critical need by providing more flexibility to properly credentialed individuals who have the professional but not ODE-issued license and would like to serve as short- or long-term substitutes in a school setting."

HB YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.) With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness **502** and prevention in public schools. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) is proposing that continued education on suicide awareness and prevention training be completed every year instead of every five years as is current practice.

The measure modifies a 2013 law that requires each school district board to incorporate youth suicide awareness and prevention training into the existing in-service training requirements for employees.

The update is necessary, she said, because the number of suicides are increasing each year.

"Current trends indicate that all ages suicides have increased from 1,420 in 2010 and in 2017 the number of suicides were 1,650," she said. "The Ohio figures are higher than the national average. Plus, these numbers are understated because of the stigma. Therefore, as a state, we are losing every single day, 365 days a year, nearly five people that die by suicide or one person dies every five hours."

The bill doesn't add additional hours to pre-existing in-service training requirements, Rep. Anielski noted.

Rep. Fedor said anyone who is licensed in Ohio receives human trafficking training and she'd like to work with the sponsor to get suicide information to more individuals outside of schools.

It's her goal that school boards also think outside of training teachers by including all district employees, Rep. Anielski said.

Bullying is an aspect of suicide, but there are many factors that influence it, she added.

Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) asked how someone would be trained to talk to youth about suicide.

The sponsor said training materials explain how different age appropriate information can be provided.

HB YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.) With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness **503** and prevention in private schools. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The legislation extends current in-service training requirements regarding suicide prevention and awareness training for public school employees to non-public and private school students.

Her testimony on the bill, which detailed the increasing suicide rate, was nearly identical to that which she provided for House Bill 502.

Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) asked about the intent behind having two separate bills addressing changes to the same law. The sponsor said the private schools might not be as flexible to do the training, but if both can draw support they could be merged later.

Government Accountability & Oversight

HJR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 15th Hearing-All testimony)

SB PRIMARY ELECTIONS (LaRose, F.) To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

The committee accepted a substitute version of the bill (Comparison Document) that includes a separate measure (HB 237) requiring the secretary of state to establish a database to facilitate communication between the office and county boards of elections, said Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville).

"The language allows for efficient resource utilization," she said. "Providing ballot language and candidate information electronically will free up resources to be used in other ways."

SB LEGAL MATERIALS (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.) To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. 139 (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsors Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said the measure would provide a mechanism for the state's official legal material to be provided online with the same trustworthiness of print publications.

The process requires that a state publishing official authenticate electronic legal material, meaning the publisher would provide a method for the user to determine if it is unaltered.

"Although online publication has facilitated public access, it has also raised a number of concerns about ensuring that the electronic material will be preserved in unaltered form and will be available permanently," Sen. Skindell said.

Legal material would have to be able to be authenticated, preserved, permanently accessible to the public and provide for back-up and recovery to ensure its integrity and continued usability.

Sen. Eklund said the bill gives flexibility for the administrators of legal documents, including the ability to go paperless. It also provides certainty and consistency for the legal system, and protects the integrity of legal materials, he said.

SB USED TIRES (LaRose, F.) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. 223 (REPORTED-AMENDED; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

The measure was unanimously reported after committee members accepted an amendment offered by Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) that would delay its implementation until Jan. 1, 2019.

Rep. Kelly said the amendment would give small businesses that sell used tires time to be made aware of the changes.

HB TAX LEVIES (Merrin, D.) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in

election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 4th Hearing-All testimony)

The committee accepted an amendment described by Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) as technical, correcting typos and other language issues.

HB UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under **382** the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**; 15th Hearing-All testimony)

HB HEALTH BENEFITS (Antani, N.) To impose review and other requirements on existing health insurance **450** mandated benefits and to establish requirements for the creation of new mandated benefits. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Keith Lake, vice president of government affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, said the bill would help business by creating a system to review insurance mandates and look at the financial burden faced by employers.

Requiring reviews of existing mandates would make the state check and see if the changes were actually helpful or necessary, he said.

"Typically, once a mandate is enacted, that's the end of the story," he said. "One of the problems with this approach, however, is that a health insurance mandate locks in a standard of care that may be inappropriate in the future."

It would prevent the state from implementing a new mandate unless five other states have created a similar mandate, require any mandates to apply to public employee plans and Medicaid, and prevent new mandates if the consumer price index for medical care services is higher than that for all items, he said.

Rep. Kelly asked if other states have actuarial data about the cost of the mandates and potential savings.

"Can these mandates, while they may cost money in and of themselves, potentially be cost-saving for participants?" she said.

The cost increases can cause problems for businesses who see rate hikes and wonder if they can continue to offer health care coverage, Mr. Lake said.

Chris Ferruso, legislative director for the National Federation of Independent Business Ohio, said insurance mandates distort the market and force business owners to bear the cost of higher premiums.

State insurance mandates don't apply to self-insured plans, only to the fully-insured and individual markets, meaning the burden falls more heavily on small businesses, he said.

"This means significant gaps in coverage remain, and there exists an inherent unfairness when mandates are enacted," he said.

The Ohio Association of Health Plans, the Ohio Manufacturers' Association and the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants also submitted testimony in support.

HB PUBLIC RECORDS (Retherford, W.) To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public **451** Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (**REPORTED**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

The committee voted unanimously to report the bill after tabling an amendment offered by Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) to eliminate the first prong, which would exempt records that would constitute an objectionable intrusion of a reasonable person's expectation of bodily privacy.

Rep. Clyde said the provision was too broad. Limiting the bill to just exempting records that depict the victim of a sexual offense at the occurrence of the offense would accomplish its goal without opening up a potentially wide-ranging exemption, she said.

Concerns were raised that the provision could exempt records that are important to public discussion, such as videos of shootings by police officers, she said.

"We could be casting a wider net and preventing an important dialogue," she said.

Sponsor Rep. Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton) said he hoped to work with the committee to address concerns but said the first prong should be retained in the bill.

The proposed amendment was tabled 8-3 along party lines.

HB TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K., Patton, T.) To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for 469 contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Kent Scarrett, executive director of the Ohio Municipal League, said the bill would incentivize the creation of transformational mixed-use developments.

"Mixed-use buildings are playing a crucial role in revitalizing municipal downtowns across the country and in some municipalities across our state," he said. "An entire workforce of young talent looks for benefits like walkability and access to local amenities when they decide where to live. For the millennial workforce, they no longer follow the jobs: the jobs come to where they are."

The tax credit created by the bill would complement the historic preservation tax credit, which helps breathe new life into existing buildings, he said.

Mr. Scarrett suggested the legislation could be expanded to include tiered funding structures for smaller municipalities who might not see developments of the same scope.

Steve Coven, vice president of development for Robert L. Stark Enterprises, a Cleveland real estate developer, said the historic preservation tax credit has helped redevelop downtowns across the state. The new credit would help cities build on that momentum by encouraging large, multi-use developments.

One specific project, the nucleus project in Cleveland, is a \$500 million mixed-use development next to Quicken Loans Arena. It consists of more than 300,000 square feet of office space, 1,000,000 square feet of retail, about 450 residential units, a hotel, and more than 1,800 parking spaces.

"We stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us, and it is our responsibility to pave the way for new construction, transformational developments, that carry our cities forward, which is what this legislation helps to accomplish," he said. "We owe it to those future generations to continue to invest in our cities and their futures, which is why I fully support this legislation."

HB FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (Dever, J.) To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and 489 credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection. (CONTINUED-AMENDED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

HB DOG BREEDERS (Hill, B.) To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders. (**CONTINUED-506** **SUBSTITUTE**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

The committee accepted a substitute bill offered by Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) that exempts hunting and field trial dogs and adjusts the fee schedule to line up with the new definition of a high-volume breeder in the bill.

HB EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (Reineke, B.) To establish the Department of Learning and Achievement; **512** to abolish the Department of Higher Education, the position of the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the **■** Ohio Board of Regents; to transfer, with exceptions, the duties regarding the administration of primary and secondary education programs and all duties regarding the administration of higher education programs to the Department of Learning and Achievement; and to prescribe certain duties regarding educator licensure, community school sponsorship, and other education programs for the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Education. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

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Click the **■** after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Policymakers Eye Quick Schedule For Capital Bill Enactment

Hearings on the \$2.63 billion capital appropriations measure for Fiscal Years 2019-2020 kicked off in both chambers Tuesday amidst an air of inevitability.

That's because the details of the bill have already been hashed out between the caucuses and administration, and no major changes are expected during the relatively brief deliberation schedule planned for the mostly bond-backed package of facilities improvements and construction spending.

To expedite the process, identical bills (HB 529 & SB 266) were introduced Monday in both chambers. Office of Budget and Management Director Tim Keen reminded lawmakers in his testimony detailing the components that unlike operating budgets, capital bills are subject to the usual 90-day delay before they become law, so the bill needs to be signed into law by April 1 so it will be effective by the start of the next fiscal year on July 1.



OBM Dir.
Keen

Mr. Keen's outline for House and Senate Finance Committees highlighted a spending proposal that's typical of recent bricks-and-mortar measures and absent any divisive policy proposals.

"The \$2.224 billion in capital appropriations supported by GRF bond funding in this bill reflects a biennial increase of \$13.7 million from total GRF-backed capital appropriations enacted in the FY 2017-2018 capital biennium," which was \$2.211 billion, he said.

"H.B. 529 is manageable and affordable within our current and future budget capacity, keeping the State well under the constitutional five percent limitation on debt service as a percent of revenue. The bill will continue to support the credit rating agencies ranking of Ohio's debt burden as 'moderate', our 'AA+' credit rating and our 'stable' credit outlook."

Recommended appropriation levels for various agencies "have been made after a careful process that has prioritized the most pressing needs of state government, K-12 schools and higher education institutions, with particular emphasis given to each project's impact on jobs and economic growth," Mr. Keen said. "Most of the proposed capital spending is focused on maintaining and improving the state's current capital assets, while much of the new construction funded in this bill is used to replace existing facilities that are no longer cost-effective to repair and maintain or no longer optimal for current program delivery needs."

Of the \$2.63 billion in proposed capital appropriations, \$2.22 billion would be supported by General Revenue Fund-backed debt obligations and the remaining \$402 million by non-GRF-backed bonds and cash funds, Mr. Keen said.

One example of the cash allotments in the bill is \$31.6 million in the Department of Natural Resources component derived from the Wildlife Fund, the OBM director explained. That funding, which includes \$6 million for the renovation and repair of dams, would support land acquisition and capital improvements at wildlife areas across the state.

The proposal also includes three Certificates of Participation issuances, or lease-purchase agreements, which are usually pursued for technology improvements.

Those are: \$29.6 million in COPs to enable the Department of Administrative Services Office of Information Technology to continue implementation of the Enterprise Data Center Solutions and Ohio Administrative Knowledge System projects; \$14 million to fund the replacement of the Department of Job and Family Services' two unemployment insurance systems into a single integrated system; and \$12 million to automate and streamline the collection and administration of taxes through the State Taxation Accounting and Revenue System by migrating the personal income tax into the system.

In addition to the new appropriations, the measure will serve as a vehicle for reappropriations, or continued spending for previously approved projects that aren't complete. In the past, those items have sometimes been the subject of separate legislation.

The \$1.26 billion in reappropriations is about 15% lower than the amount originally enacted through the last such measure (SB260, 131st General Assembly), Mr. Keen said.

"Of fundamental importance to the understanding of the reappropriations contained in H.B. 529 is that the amounts presented are not the 'actual' amounts that will be reappropriated. Instead, the dollar values contained in the bill are reasonable-estimate placeholders developed by OBM based on its review of agency requests," he said.

The budget also contains \$150 million for "community projects" sought by regions of the state. As in previous years, Franklin, Hamilton and Cuyahoga counties are set to receive the highest amounts of project funding. ([County Project Appropriation Lists](#))

The largest single community project is a redesign of the COSI science museum in downtown Columbus at a price tag of \$5 million.

The second largest is \$4 million for a stadium to be used by the FC Cincinnati soccer team. If the city rejects a plan for the stadium, Hamilton County will be permitted to repurpose the money for other projects, Senate President [Larry Obhof](#) (R-Medina) said.

Other notable allocations include \$4 million for the Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Center, \$2.5 million for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, \$2.5 million to expand the Hamilton County Justice Center, and \$2.5 million to stabilize Franklin Hill in Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Keen said the budget also contains two capital-related language changes.

One allows districts to receive greater than 10% of their annual allocations within the State Capital Improvement Program in the form of loans as opposed to grants. Another authorizes the transfer of the former Montgomery Developmental Center to the Montgomery County Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board.

He told [Rep. Dan Ramos](#) (D-Lorain) that it's uncertain how much of the \$350 million set aside for public works loans and grants would be loans because of the language update.

[Rep. Mike Duffey](#) (R-Worthington) questioned how much of the public works is projected to go toward water and sewer improvements in municipalities.

Historically, about a third of the funding is allocated for such projects, but the decision of how to spend those dollars is ultimately up to the 19 district committees that work together to prioritize regional projects, Mr. Keen said. A total of \$514 million is proposed to be sent to the Public Works Commission.

Details on a competitive grant process for so-called community resiliency projects that benefit at-risk youth were sought by [Rep. Emilia Sykes](#) (D-Akron) and [Rep. Nickie Antonio](#) (D-Lakewood).

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is expected to set guidelines for the \$20 million grant program that will target children in low-capacity, high-poverty areas of the state that are seeing significant

impacts of the opiate epidemic, Mr. Keen said.

"The idea is to expand...some of the support services that address this issue and perhaps can prevent some of our sons and daughters from falling into this circumstance," he said of the program backed by Gov. John Kasich.

In the Senate, a similar question was raised by Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) - the only lawmaker to ask a question during the hearing of the Senate Finance Committee.

Mr. Keen said the governor was "very excited" about the plan. "The thought was that we would try to address this challenge in a different way, in a preventative way if you will," he said. The aim is to bolster existing facility needs for "support organizations" that target at-risk children.

The OBM director also told Sen. Skindell that the breakdown of \$21.5 million for "traditional community mental health housing and treatment options" was \$12 million for a competitive grant program for local providers, and \$9.5 million for previously identified projects that are specified in the bill.

Responding to questions from Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) about construction jobs and contracts for minority business enterprises that will be created as a result of the capital budget, Mr. Keen said all the contracts will be awarded per state laws.

The administration has long prioritized working with disadvantaged firms and being inclusive in the bidding processes, he said.

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) noted that Ohio has an AA+ credit rating. He asked how that compares with other states and whether steps are being taken to increase it.

The state has earned its rating - which is the second-best rating - by having a stable credit outlook, Mr. Keen said. However, he said it's unlikely that the rating will increase.

"I think AA+ is as good as it gets for us," he said, adding that states with AAA credit ratings issue very little debt, whereas Ohio issues a "fair amount of debt," and is still heavily reliant on manufacturing jobs.

The current General Assembly has been able to maintain the current rating by ensuring that debt service payments are a priority, Mr. Keen said.

Answering additional questions from the House panel, he said the bill only addresses green spaces because the state doesn't have the authority to issue bonds for brown fields and some security features are already included in the costs of new school buildings funded by the state.

Education Consolidation Plan's Backers Tout Collaboration, Communication

Administration officials and other proponents of a legislative plan to combine the state's education departments told a House panel Tuesday it would improve collaboration and better align policy with workforce needs.

The proposal (HB 512), however, drew concerns from some committee members who said it would create an unwieldy bureaucracy and hinder local flexibility.

Ryan Burgess, director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, said his office was created because education and workforce systems have traditionally been siloed and fragmented. The plan presents the next logical step in aligning the state's agencies.

Business and education leaders, along with other stakeholders in the systems, fail to collaborate and communicate, he said.

"A unified and consistent voice from the State of Ohio, instead of multiple differing voices, will empower local communities to address their talent challenges," he said. "If we believe that local collaboration will lead to a

stronger workforce, we must set the example in state government."

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) asked how collaboration and discussion could be improved without creating a "mega-agency."

Mr. Burgess said collaboration is happening at the local level, but it isn't happening enough across the state.

Rep. Clyde said the consolidation could also create concerns that it would be harder to hold education officials accountable.

The changes could streamline the accountability process for stakeholders by making it clear who they need to communicate with, Mr. Burgess said.

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) asked how a restructuring would change how education is delivered at the local level.

One example would be dealing with adults who don't have a high school degree, Mr. Burgess said. The program that administers the high school equivalency exam is divided between the Department of Higher Education and the Department of Education.

Communication at the state level doesn't always disseminate out to the local level across the state, Rep. Smith said.

Chancellor John Carey of the Department of Higher Education said the intent of the legislation is simply to realign duties of the departments under one Department of Learning and Achievement.

"This legislation will foster much needed day-to-day collaboration between the primary/secondary, post-secondary and workforce arms of the State's education system, with three teams now working as one under a single chain of command," he said.

Rep. Clyde said she was concerned the state would lose focus on different interests that would be combined under one department.

When the state changed the governance of higher education in 2007, institutions of higher education became more engaged in state government, Mr. Carey said.

Rep. Clyde asked where the state sees a weakness in collaboration.

"What's a problem that's occurring in your agency that we'll solve in this bill?" she asked.

Mr. Carey said the current structure is not set up to be a united front.

"We're not connecting as well with K-12 as we might," he said. "K-12, they just want to get the students graduated. Having one person in charge of that whole continuum can hold that whole structure accountable so they can move seamlessly through that system."

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said the merger that created the Department of Job and Family Services caused problems, in part because of the incompatibility of IT systems.

The short-term budget effect would be minimal, Mr. Carey said. There could be efficiency, however, in the long run.

Tom Gunlock, a former State Board of Education president, said the current system has "too many cooks in the kitchen" in developing education policy. By having a state board operating independently of the governor and legislature, the Department of Education often must deal with competing directives.

"I feel strongly the current governance structure is not working for Ohio's students," he said. "The current system creates conflict and chaos in budget-setting, policy-making and program administration and oversight."

Ron Iarussi, superintendent of the Mahoning County Educational Service Center, said local educational institutions are working with businesses and workforce agencies in their areas, and more collaboration at the state would help expand those successes.

"Any opportunity to establish more collaboration to help all of the entities involved in career readiness for students will help to grow our economy, retain talent in our state, and help underprivileged students find a way out of the continuous circle of poverty," he said.

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) asked Mr. Iarussi if he was concerned that the consolidated agency would hinder local collaboration.

Being able to go to one agency to talk about the coordination would be helpful, he said.

"I think this bill would give us an opportunity to direct what we're doing, ask questions, seek advice," he said. "To go through one agency I think would be beneficial."

It would essentially create deputy directors in the same department overseeing K-12, higher education and workforce, and those deputy directors would be on the same floor and who would have direct interaction with each other, said David Zak, president and CEO for the Seneca Industrial and Economic Development Corporation.

"I do think you get a rationalization in that you will have a more efficient agency," he said.

OhioCorps Would Give At-Risk Students Hope, Backers Say

Supporters behind the creation of a program to pair college-age mentors with at-risk youth told lawmakers Tuesday the goal is to provide hope.

Capt. Dennis Crabtree of the Village of Waverly Police Department, whose work with students helped inspire the legislation (HB 508), said he realized a lack of hope was holding back students in his community who've been witness to their parents' drug addictions or suffered other traumas.

The handful of the at-risk students he's mentored for the last year - the same ones who met with Gov. John Kasich and Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) and ignited the spark to create OhioCorps (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 8, 2018) - are now looking forward to their futures because they know they can be successful.

"To be able to help change the path of some of these kids and to provide them hope is why I am here supporting this bill," Mr. Crabtree said.

Under the pilot OhioCorps program, students who work with mentors earn certain grades and make steps toward preparing for college will receive \$1,000 scholarships to state universities. College students who serve as mentors will receive stipends and experiential learning.

When the measure was introduced, the students who inspired the legislation met with more lawmakers and presidents of state universities. That was a real turning point, Mr. Crabtree said.

"I got to witness what hope looks like. The excitement and joy the kids had that day is why I believe this will work," he said.

In further detailing the impact the proposed legislation could have on students, Inter-University Council President Bruce Johnson pointed to Ohio State University research that shows individuals with only a high

school degree are 4.5 times more likely to die from an overdose than those who have attended some college. The number jumps to 14 times higher when compared to those with bachelor's degrees, he said.

"This bill is about relationships. It's about forging relationships between students currently attending colleges and universities, at-risk youth in our communities who one day hope to attend college, and members of the local community who care about these kids and volunteer to participate in the OhioCorps program," Mr. Johnson said.

"These relationships will work to create hope, achieve success, and to ensure we don't lose an entire generation. It's about using relationships to create hope and drive success."

Students would be eligible for scholarships by demonstrating that their expected family contribution would continually equal zero dollars a year or receiving a letter from the school that indicates a student is impacted by a family opiate addiction, Mr. Johnson said.

They would also have to achieve a remediation-free test score or have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher, complete community service training and participate in College Credit Plus.

"This may seem like a lot to ask, but part of the purpose of this program is to demonstrate to these young people the value of working hard, fulfilling obligations, and meeting a variety of responsibilities - all of which are necessary to achieve success in life," he said.

Once students receive the scholarships, there is no limit on what educational purposes they can use the money for because their tuition will likely be covered by PELL and Ohio College Opportunity Grant dollars, Mr. Johnson said.

It's likely most students who enter the program won't be aware that they have such funding options for school until they meet with their mentors.

While writing his testimony, Mr. Crabtree said he asked students whether they had anyone at home who could help them decide whether to go to college and how to fill out financial aid forms. They're hearing about those things at school, but they said their parents had no clue about them, he said.

Many at-risk students - including about half of the 1,800 students in the Waverly City School District - live with individuals who aren't their parents, Mr. Crabtree added.

"What these kids don't have is that person at home that's helping them through that process as well," he told Rep. George Lang (R-West Chester Twp.). The lawmaker had raised concerns about whether the program will have an impact on students who don't appear to be responsive to school assistance.

Mr. Crabtree said students who've suffered trauma are keen to figure things out for themselves as opposed to asking questions of individuals in authority, so guidance counselors may not always be approached with questions about college.

At-risk students also rarely pay attention to discussions about college because they may believe they're not equipped to move on to higher education, he continued.

Responding to a question from sponsoring Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark), Mr. Crabtree said troubled youth don't often trust adults, but college-age mentors could better relate to them and help them make career and college decisions.

"Kids closer to their age - that's who they'll bond with," he said.

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) questioned the type of career guidance mentors would be providing to students and their parents.

"I want to make sure that career guidance piece is one that talks about in-demand jobs and we're not steering kids into fields that won't lead to a job and therefore a career," he said.

Mr. Johnson said trained mentors would be aware of the types of jobs that are most in demand as well as those that have the highest pay.

However, quality career training also involves helping students identify their passions at the moment and determine how those might be adaptable to other jobs in the future, he said.

"Education goes with training but it's not exactly the same thing," Mr. Johnson said. He added that a quality education "makes you trainable and able to analyze issues, communicate effectively, solve problems and change careers."

Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) applauded the bill, telling her colleagues it should be taken seriously because it's the product of positive relationships between police and the community members they serve.

"We've been asking police and community to come together and now we have something I hope that we can move forward," she said.

Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) asked what more the state can do to address those who are indirectly impacted by addiction.

Mr. Crabtree said making mental health treatment easily accessible to students would make a major difference. All the students he's worked with have faced trauma, some of which he says he has regrettably caused by having to arrest their parents for various reasons, including drug use.

Schools may have guidance counselors, he said, but they're not trained doctors or therapists who can deal with the issues keeping students from learning in class and focusing on their futures.

Citing Low Repayment Rate, Yost Backs Bill Requiring Medicaid Providers To Carry Surety Bonds

Medicaid providers identified as receiving improper payments from the state have repaid less than 10% of the money they owe, according to a report released Tuesday by State Auditor Dave Yost.

One proposal to solve that, backed by the auditor and senators, would require providers to obtain surety bonds before receiving Medicaid payments.

The legislation (SB 218) from sponsor Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) requires Medicaid home health care and transportation services to hold a \$50,000 surety bond and independent home health aides to hold a \$10,000 bond.

It received its first hearing Tuesday in the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee, where the proposal was amended to exempt from the bond provisions providers with a clean audit history who care for family members.

The measure is intended to hold providers accountable when they perform services without the required documentation or certification, Auditor Yost and Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville) said at a Statehouse news conference. Requiring any businesses that contract with Medicaid to obtain a surety bond would raise the likelihood of repayment.

"In the event of these folks that are not repaying, we can come back against the bond if we have an unpaid finding," Auditor Yost said.

The issue stems from the low rates of repayment by Medicaid providers despite audits that sometimes find millions of dollars in overpayments because of incomplete or improper documentation of services.

The report from the auditor's office cited 133 audits that identified more than \$33 million in improper payments since 2011. An analysis of 60 providers who were improperly paid found they repaid only 9.6% of the \$19.7 million they owed.

Separate data provided by the Department of Medicaid tracked the 41 cases that went to an administrative hearing since 2011. In those cases, providers have paid back more than \$748,000 out of nearly \$8.8 million owed as of November 2017.

The two largest groups of providers who face audit findings are home health care providers and medical transportation providers, who account for 13-17% of providers but 86% of improper payments, Auditor Yost said. Those providers also have among the lowest documentation and certification requirements.

"Some people look at this as just being a paperwork requirement, but it's so critical because how do we know whether or not the state should be paying for a medical service?" Mr. Yost said.

Speaking before the committee, Sen. Lehner singled out Healing Touch Health Care Ltd., a business in her district which was overpaid by \$4 million. She said 69% of personal care services tested at that facility were conducted by employees who were ineligible to provide them on the dates of service.

"Not only does this fraud rob Ohioans of their taxpayer dollars, but of the care they deserve," the sponsor said. "We need to make sure that Ohio families have access to quality Medicaid services and by weeding out the bad actors I believe we can do just that."

Sen. Lehner said the bonds would cost between 1-12% of the coverage. The newer the provider is, the higher the cost for the bond, she said.

Her plan would also require Medicaid providers to complete their certification before being paid for rendering services - a provision Mr. Yost applauded.

"The notion that we're going to let you catch up with your certifications later and we'll pay you in the meantime is a profoundly stupid idea," Mr. Yost said.

Many providers are already required to carry surety bonds by other payers, such as Medicare, said Sen. Burke, who chairs the committee reviewing the legislation. The proposal is designed not to require duplicative bonds.

People who are paid by Medicaid for providing care to a family member and don't operate a business, as long as they hold a clean record of audit findings, would not be required to carry surety bonds, Auditor Yost said.

The auditor said the state can be more proactive in identifying red flags of fraud and incomplete documentation.

One recent change Sen. Burke cited is a new Medicaid rule requiring electronic visit verification for home care providers, creating a documented trail of when services were provided.

"All we're looking for is a way to get our money back," he said.

During the committee discussion, Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) questioned Sen. Lehner on how difficult it will be for independent home health aides to obtain the required bonds.

Sen. Lehner acknowledged it might be challenging, which is why the threshold is lowered to \$10,000 for those entities. "I cannot honestly answer you on whether that will be an issue," Sen. Lehner replied. "The auditor's office didn't think so."

The sponsor said she will research further whether that has been an issue - and in turn whether it has decreased the number of providers - in other states who have adopted similar legislation.

Sponsor Details Effort To Ease Regulations For Small Financial Institutions

A House proposal would ease regulations on small financial institutions while protecting consumers, its sponsor said Tuesday.

The House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee had its first hearing of the measure (HB 489) after adopting an amendment described by Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) as clarifying how it would change the application of the financial institutions tax for small lenders.

Sponsor Rep. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) said the bill would overhaul the state's financial institutions regulatory framework and protect the industry in the event of another economic crisis.

Financial institutions that meet certain asset and ratings requirements would have longer periods between regulatory examinations, and state-chartered credit unions would no longer have to seek state approval before acquiring real estate.

The legislation includes a "second chance rule" allowing financial institutions to remedy errors by notifying consumers and regulators of the error and making reasonable restitution. Consumers would have a civil cause of action if the institution fails to comply.

"This commonsense approach allows financial institutions the ability to report mistakes such as unintentional clerical errors, without fear of retribution from state regulators, while providing an avenue for consumers to recover any losses," he said.

Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) asked if the provision includes a timeframe in which the institution would have to act.

"You have 60 days to do the right thing," the sponsor said.

Other provisions would require mortgage services to register with regulators, prohibit regulators from adopting retroactive rules, and allow the General Assembly to analyze data on publicly available information connected to financial transactions, including working with third-party vendors, the sponsor said.

Anyone collecting on a debt secured by residential real estate, for which the debt is a second mortgage or junior lien, would have to notify the debtor of rights they have under state and federal law, he said.

Equity capital above 14% of assets would be exempted from the calculation of the financial institutions tax, the sponsor said.

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) asked if the bill includes provisions drawn from other states.

The sponsor said many of the changes come from problems noticed by Ohio banks and from conversations with national lending associations.

Rep. Dever told Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) the changes to the financial institutions tax would mostly affect small institutions.

"The savings that they would get, although it's minimal to the state budget...for a really small lending institution, a few dollars here and there makes a big difference in their ability to hire, retain, make loans, etc.," the sponsor said.

Fireworks Industry Raises Concerns About Possible Change To Legalization Bill

The fireworks industry continues to back a measure to put Ohio on a path to legalize the use of consumer fireworks.

Danial Peart, director of government affairs for Phantom Fireworks, told members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee Tuesday that the current laws on consumer fireworks do not reflect the realities

of their use.

Since 1991, he said, consumer use has more than doubled, while firework-related injuries have fallen by more than 60%.

"Equally as important to fireworks safety is ensuring an educated and informed consumer," he said. "Consumer fireworks retailers are spending more time and resources to educate consumers on how fireworks work, and how to use fireworks properly and safely. Our company floods our customers with safety messaging from the moment they walk through our doors until the moment they leave."

The legislation would create a study group to weigh in on the issue, which Mr. Peart called "a rational approach to ensure that we don't find ourselves in a similar situation of dealing with antiquated fireworks laws."

"A study group made up of industry, enforcement, and interested parties is a logical means to generate discussion between stakeholders," he said. "The ongoing dialogue between industry and enforcement has proven to be effective in multiple states, and leads to a transparency that benefits all involved."

Ken Sprague, president of the Ohio State Pyrotechnics Association, said there are more than 50 licensed locations in Ohio that sell consumer fireworks. However, state law does not permit their use by the average Ohioan.

"This is a dated approach to the consumer fireworks business that should be addressed," he said. "Every state bordering Ohio already permits the sale and use of the full line of consumer fireworks."

Mr. Sprague and Mr. Peart also took issue with a proposed amendment that was not brought up for consideration to exclude "fountains" from the definition of fireworks.

"Fountains, while not an impressive aerial display, still have a fuse that needs lit, and they are still a consumer firework and should be treated as such," Mr. Peart said. "It is a dangerous precedent to consider them to be no different than a pack of chewing gum that can be displayed on the shelf of a gas station or Walmart with no supervision, nor knowledge from the staff of how the item will function once ignited."

Chairman Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) questioned if Mr. Peart's company sells "fountains" in retail stores outside of Ohio.

He acknowledged it does, but called it bad policy to allow for sales of commercial fireworks in such locations.

Bruce Blom, co-founder of the OPAG, said the law should also address the storage and manufacturing of consumer fireworks. He also called for the current moratorium on licensing to end.

"The current moratorium, that has shackled this industry for 20-plus years, has caused a major impediment to free trade, competition and product development, to the detriment of consumers and other interested parties," he said.

However, Mr. Sprague, who is the president of Hamburg Fireworks Displays in Lancaster, said an immediate and wholesale end to the moratorium would put businesses like his in jeopardy.

Prosecutors, Public Defender Spar Over Protection Order Bill

Ohio's county prosecutors and the office that represents indigent defendants are again at odds over a proposed law.

The Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association is backing a measure (SB 171) to boost penalties for repeat violators of a protection order.

Executive Director Lou Tobin said Tuesday that under current law, an individual in those circumstances would be eligible for a fifth-degree felony charge.

"The penalty never goes beyond a felony of the fifth degree regardless of the number of violations," he told members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "This provides little deterrent to someone with multiple violations and does not, we believe, appropriately reflect the level of criminality or the dangerousness of an offender who continues to violate these orders."

The graduated penalties contained in the legislation will "deter violations, promote the safety of victims and promote public safety generally," Mr. Tobin added.

But Niki Clum, legislative liaison for the Office of the Ohio Public Defender, warned that, even with expected changes, it has the potential to add to the state's prison overcrowding problem.

She said it will also have an impact on the finances of local governments.

"Individuals with higher level felony offenses often receive higher bonds and, as a result, are more likely to be incarcerated pretrial," she said.

Ms. Clum also said the changes to the bill could encourage judges to sentence first-time offenders to six months in jail to ensure future offenses carry the potential of prison time.

"If Ohio is serious about reducing recidivism rates, reducing the prison population, and keeping its citizens safe, then Ohio should spend that money on services that address the underlying issues that led to the protection order," she said. "That money could be used to require these individuals to participate in anger management, substance abuse counseling, behavioral counseling, and family counseling - to give just a few examples."

The measure also fails to recognize the "complex relationships" that lead to protection orders, Ms. Clum said.

"Many individuals under a protection order have relationships with the protected party - they are married, they own property together or they have children together," she said. "For this reasons, it is not uncommon for a protected party to initiate the contact, despite a protection order, so that the two can discuss personal and familial matters. There is no penalty for a protected party who violates a protection order. However, an individual under the protection order can be sent to prison for simply responding to a text."

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) questioned Mr. Tobin about that possibility.

Mr. Tobin said judges and prosecutors have discretion in these cases, and he doubts that individuals are being sent to prison for sending a text message. He said law enforcement officials are more concerned with those served a protection order showing up at a protected individual's home or place of work.

Appeals Court Rules Ed Board Met Lawfully Before ECOT Vote

The State Board of Education didn't commit a technical violation when it voted to claw back \$60 million from The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, an appeals court has ruled.

The Franklin County Court of Appeals upheld the July decision of a lower court that the board didn't break open meetings laws the day it accepted a hearing officer's finding that ECOT was overpaid for the number of full-time students it served in the 2015-16 school year.

The shuttered e-school argued board members met illegally in June to come to a decision on the repayment prior to a vote.

Its attorney said at the time a violation was clear because members voted without discussion. He also criticized the meeting schedule and accused board president Tess Elshoff of polling members on their opinions prior to a vote. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 14, 2017)

Similarly, the board voted without discussion earlier this month to accept a hearing officer's findings from ECOT's 2016-17 school year attendance audit. Another \$19 million was deemed overpaid as a result of that review. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 12, 2018)

The three-judge appeals court found that because the board's 2017 proceedings were quasi-judicial in nature, the Open Meetings Act cannot be violated.

"By issuing a final determination after providing notice, a hearing, and the opportunity to provide evidence, BOE was acting in a quasi-judicial capacity," the court said in its decision.

ECOT is currently awaiting an Ohio Supreme Court ruling in a separate case in which it contended the attendance audit was incorrectly completed, therefore no repayments should be made. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 13, 2018)

Issue 1 Officially Titled; Slaby Backs Out Of Reelection Bid; Gavarone Opponent Left Off Ballot; Clyde Wants Funding For Voting Machines...

Secretary of State Jon Husted announced Tuesday the ballot title for Issue 1.

The congressional redistricting proposal will state that it "Creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing congressional districts."

Secretary Husted also announced that three statewide write-in candidates have qualified for the May primary ballot.

Paul Curry will run for treasurer as a member of the Green Party, as will Philena Irene Farley in the U.S. Senate race. Timothy A. Pinton will also contend in the U.S. Senate race as a member of the Republican Party.

Reelection Bid: Rep. Marilyn Slaby has decided not to seek reelection after filing for the race.

The Akron Republican's withdrawal from the race clears the way for Bill Roemer to secure the party's nomination.

Rep. Slaby is backing Mr. Roemer's candidacy, according to the House Republican Caucus.

Mr. Roemer is set to face Democrat Elliot Kolkovich in the November general election.

Gavarone Opponent: Another incumbent Republican, Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green), will have an easier path to reelection after her primary opponent, John Clemons, filed the wrong forms and was not certified for the ballot, according to the Wood County Board of Elections.

She is slated to face Democrat Daniel Gordon in the general election.

Voting Machines: Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent), a candidate to replace Secretary of State Husted, lamented the lack of funding in the capital bill (SB 266 & HB 529) for voting machines.

The funding is all the more important in the wake of Russian meddling in American elections, she said.

"Ohio was one of several states targeted by a Russian government operation in the 2016 presidential election and federal officials, including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, have said the attackers are not letting up. There is an urgent need to get Ohio prepared for ongoing, intensifying cyber threats," Rep. Clyde said.

"I would like to see funding for our counties to purchase secure voting machines in the capital budget bill. Despite bipartisan calls for such funding to be included in the bill, funds are not in the bill as introduced. I am working on an amendment to the bill to include needed funding to protect our democracy from any and all attacks and I urge bipartisan cooperation on this urgent matter."

Majority Republicans are eyeing legislation ([SB 135](#)) sponsored by her opponent in the secretary of state contest, [Sen. Frank LaRose](#) (R-Hudson) as a vehicle for the voting machine funding.

Oil, Gas Leasing Commission Schedules First Meeting; Congress Members Request Federal Support For Nuclear Plants...

The Oil and Gas Leasing Commission will meet for the first time next month, despite the fact the board was formed seven years ago.

The Department of Natural Resources announced the first public meeting of the group is scheduled for 1 p.m. March 15. Items on the agenda include training provided by the Ohio Ethics Commission, the Attorney General's office and other organizational groundwork.

The commission is charged with reviewing industry-nominated lease proposals for oil and gas drilling on state property. But the public hearing is notable because it's the first time the commission will meet since it was created in 2011 legislation (HB133; 129th General Assembly).

That delay is thanks to [Gov. John Kasich](#), who declined to appoint members to the five-member panel until last year after lawmakers proposed budget language to wrest appointment authority away from the governor and vest it within the legislature. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, July 6, 2017](#))

Gov. Kasich vetoed that language, prompting a potential budget veto override. Ultimately, the administration and lawmakers reached an agreement and the governor filled out the commission's roster. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017](#))

The meeting will take place at ODNR's Columbus office at 2045 Morse Rd., Building C.

FERC Case: Four of Ohio's members of Congress are urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to take "immediate action" to support nuclear power plants.

The missive was signed by [U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur](#) (D-Toledo), [U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce](#) (R-Novelty), [U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge](#) (D-Cleveland) and [U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan](#) (D-Niles).

Their letter was submitted to FERC as part of its ongoing review of grid reliability - an investigation opened after the commission declined the Trump Administration's previous grid proposal and opted to pursue its own exploration of the issue. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, January 9, 2018](#))

The group called nuclear energy "a key component" of the nation's energy strategy and said premature closure of plants like FirstEnergy's Davis-Besse and Perry threatens the country's competitive edge.

"Unfortunately, recent news reports reveal that Ohio's only two nuclear power plants appear headed for premature closure," the legislators wrote, "We urge you to step in and offer immediate assistance to prevent these critical generators from closing prematurely."

FERC's review is in its early stages; The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and other entities in the state have already begun filing motions to intervene in anticipation of filing future testimony.

The debate over financially supporting the FirstEnergy plants, meanwhile, continues at the state level where Statehouse proposals ([SB 128](#), [HB 178](#), & [HB 381](#)) to do just that await further hearings. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2018](#))

Plant Sale: The sale of an unused Clermont County power plant has been finalized, the plant's joint owners said Monday.

Duke Energy, AEP and Dayton Power & Light's announcement pertains to the retired Walter C. Beckjord coal-fired plant in New Richmond. The plant was sold for an undisclosed sum to Commercial Liability Partners

which plans to repurpose the property for future development.

At the same time, Duke will contribute \$750,000 over a three-year period to Connect Clermont, "in order to help facilitate future economic development opportunities," the company said.

"Beckjord Station powered our region and played a vital role in the county's economy for countless families and businesses," said Jim Henning, president, Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky. "We've pursued an outcome that will advance the county's priorities with regard to safeguarding the environment and revitalizing the property and we're pleased that this historic property is poised for a second act as an integral part of our community."

The plant, which retired in 2014, began operation in 1952 and by 1969 had been expanded for a capacity of 1,202 megawatts. Four oil-fired combustion turbines were added in the 1970s, adding 61 megawatts of capacity each.

Gongwer Bill Tracking Service Refresher

Gongwer News Service subscribers have full access to the leading bill tracking and alert system, which now includes the ability to receive real-time alerts and updates via text message in addition to email.

Subscribers can utilize the tracking system to receive alerts on bill activities, committee notices, keywords, Revised Code sections, categories and legislative activities, among other things.

Subscribers also have full access to a customizable bill status report system which includes options to share always-updated information with clients, members, colleagues and others on legislative developments.

The extensive Gongwer bill tracking, alert and sharing services are available through [Gongwer's Bill Tracking page](#) and are included with your subscription at no additional charge.

To Receive Alerts via Text Message: Login to the Gongwer website, click on your name in the banner of the home page and select Update Profile. Enter your mobile number and wireless carrier, and choose the messages you want to receive via text. Text and email preferences can be changed at any time.

To Track Legislation: Click on the green Track button that appears next to bills anywhere on the Gongwer platform or enter the number(s) of bills you want to track in the box at the top of the [bill tracking page](#). When clicking on the green Track button, you will have the opportunity to assign the bill to a Tracking Group.

Once a bill is tracked, you will receive an email and/or text whenever the bill is scheduled for action, receives action or is referenced in a Gongwer article. Additionally, it will appear in your Status Reports section and in your Tracked Legislation menu.

Tracking Groups: You can use Tracking Groups to sort tracked legislation by subject matter, client, staff assignment or any other factor. To create a group, open the Tracking Groups menu on the [bill tracking page](#) and click the green Add New Tracking Group button. You will then have an opportunity to name the tracking group and add bills directly to that group.

Additional bills can be added to tracking groups at any time by clicking on the green track button, or by using the Manage Groups option in the Tracked Legislation menu.

Tracking Group Options: Once a tracking group has been created, subscribers have several options to display different content on their Status Reports. Subscribers may choose to display:

- All or a limited number of activities on bills;
- Full or partial bill titles;
- Revised Code sections impacted;

- Links to bill texts, analyses, roll call votes, fiscal notes and other key documents;
- Personal comments on legislation;
- Lists of recent bill introductions, and;
- Recent Gongwer headlines.

To update the information displayed on your status reports, click the View or Edit Report link under your tracking group, select the appropriate information on the right side of the screen and click the Submit button.

Status Reports & Committee Schedules: To generate a status report on all bills you are tracking, select the Status Reports menu on the [bill tracking page](#), and click View Report. To generate a committee schedule showing all of the bills you are tracking, select the Status Reports menu on the bill tracking page, and click View Report.

Sharing Status Reports & Committee Schedules: Subscribers can easily share status reports and custom committee schedules online. To share those reports online, click the Share link under your tracking group and copy & paste the link to the appropriate location.

Shared links draw live information from the Gongwer system, so there is no need to update links that have been published or shared with others, and no need to wait until a certain day to distribute information to members.

Export Status Reports: Subscribers can export the content of their status reports to Microsoft Word, allowing further customization of legislative information as deemed necessary. Word exports can be generated by clicking on the link within each Status Report.

Upload Organizational Logos: Gongwer status reports allow subscribers to upload organizational logos for a more custom look. To upload a logo, select the Update Profile option that appears when clicking on your name in the header of the website and use the browse feature to select the logo to be displayed.

To Track Revised Code Sections & Keywords: Open the Saved Search Menu on the [bill tracking page](#) and enter the ORC sections and/or keywords you want to track. Save and name the search and direct the system to send you email when there is a match.

Once a Code Section or Keyword is tracked, you will receive an email and/or text whenever there is a new bill introduced with a matching code section, or when Gongwer publishes an article that includes your keyword(s).

To Track Legislative Activities: Open the Legislation Activity Tracking Menu on the [bill tracking page](#) and click on the green Add/Edit Activities button. Select the activities you want to track (e.g. introduced, passed, calendar for coming session, signed by the governor) and click the Save Changes button.

Once an activity is tracked, you will receive an email and/or text whenever there is an action that matches your requests.

To Track Committees: Open the Committee Tracking Menu on the bill tracking page and select the committees you want to track (House, Senate, Joint). Or, select the Track Committee button from each committee page.

Once a committee is tracked, you will receive an email and/or text whenever that committee schedules a hearing or makes notable changes in its meeting time or agenda.

To Track Legislation Categories: Visit the legislation category page and click the green Track button next to the category you want to track.

Once a category tracked, you will receive an email and/or text whenever a new bill is introduced and filed in that category. If you want to track that bill beyond that point, select the green Track button next to the bill and save it

in your Tracked Legislation menu and/or assign it to a Tracking Group.

For questions about Gongwer's bill tracking system, feel free to contact Gongwer at gongwer@gongwer-oh.com or 614.221.1992.

Governor's Appointments

Miami University Board of Trustees, student member: Megan Cremeans of Somerset for a term beginning March 1, 2018, and ending February 28, 2020.

Miami University Board of Trustees: Zachary T. Haines of Cincinnati for a term beginning March 1, 2018, and ending February 28, 2027

Columbiana County Municipal Court: Timothy J. McNicol of Wellsville, who will take office on March 7, 2018. He replaces Judge Charles C. Amato who resigned.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, February 28

Vision Professionals Board, 77 S. High Street, Room 1948, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Thursday, March 15

Oil and Gas Leasing Commission, 1st Fl., Bldg. C, 2045 Morse Rd., Columbus, 1 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Thursday, March 1

Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) news conference on proposed changes to SB 135 on voting machines, Senate Harding Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Women's Fund of Central Ohio legislative reception, Huntington Center, 41 S. High Street, The Casto Community Room, 10th Floor, Columbus, 5 p.m.

Monday, March 19

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Crop Bistro & Bar, 2537 Lorain Ave., Cleveland, 5:30 p.m., (Gold: \$500, Silver: \$250, Bronze: \$100, Supporter: \$50 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester) fundraiser, Shades, 2486 S. High St., Columbus, 6 p.m., (\$500, \$250 or \$100)

Tuesday, March 20

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000, \$500 or \$350)

Rep. Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Hadley's, 260 S. 4th St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$1,000, \$500, \$250 or \$100)

Wednesday, March 21

Buckeye Institute luncheon with American Enterprise Institute President Arthur Brooks, Athletic Club Of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 12 p.m., (For more information and to register visit the Institute's website at <https://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/events>)

Sen. Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) fundraiser, Milestone 229, 229 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500, \$1,000 or \$500)

Tuesday, April 10

Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Condado Tacos, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000, \$500 or \$350)

Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) fundraiser, The Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor: \$500; Chair: \$350 to McClain for Ohio)

Wednesday, April 11

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000; \$500; \$350)

Tuesday, April 17

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, The Athletic Club 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold: \$2,000; Silver: \$1,000; Bronze: \$500 to Seitz for Ohio)

Tuesday, April 24


OAHU Annual Day at the Statehouse, Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$3,700; Sponsor: \$1,370 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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7/23/2018

Gmail - What You Missed at ALEC: 3/1/2018



Sarah La Tourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

What You Missed at ALEC: 3/1/2018

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <tmclaughlin@alec.org>

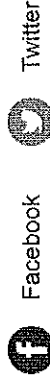
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Thu, Mar 1, 2018 at 12:29 PM

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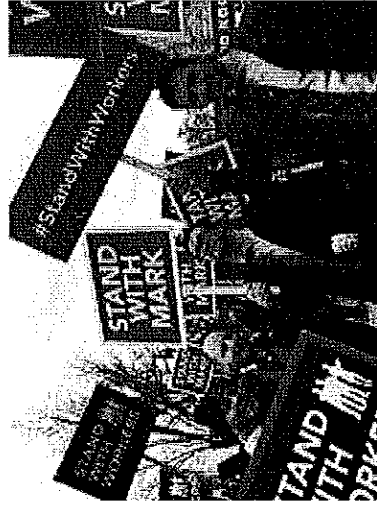


ALEC Digital Exchange: March 1, 2018



ALEC In Action

ALEC Joins Rally for Mark Janus at U.S. Supreme Court
Robert Ordway | Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development



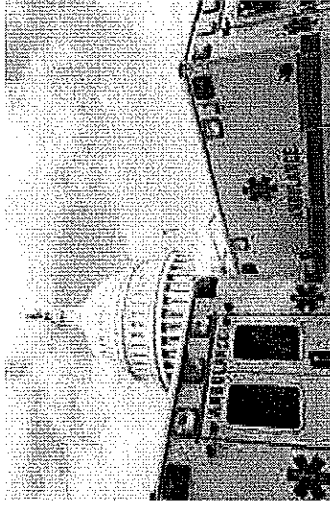
ALEC Staff joined hundreds of workers, teachers, policy professionals and many others outside the United States Supreme Court to rally in support of Mark Janus in his worker freedom case being heard by the court. Some see this case as an opportunity to expand worker freedom through choice, making it a potentially landmark decision in labor reform. To learn more about the *Janus* case and the judicial history of worker freedom, follow the link below.

[Read Article](#)

Legislator Voices

Health Care and the Individual Insurance Market

Speaker Linda Upmeyer | Iowa State Legislature



Iowa once had a stable and affordable health insurance market. Premiums were low, consumers had several choices, and our uninsured rate was lower than the national average. Following the enactment of Obamacare and its mandates, Iowa's market has collapsed. Iowa's unfortunate story is similar to many other states. It is time for states to act and do what they can to provide their citizens with affordable and accessible health coverage.

[Read Article](#)

Communication and Technology

FCC Announces Wireless Broadband Federal Review and Approval Modernizations

Jonathon Hauenschild | Communication and Technology



Is it possible for government to spur infrastructure spending and growth without spending a dime? That is what the Federal Communications Commission plans to do, according to a proposal discussed recently by Commissioner Carr. In a nutshell, the proposal would speed the process for deploying the next generation of broadband and mobile technology, and reducing both time and cost of implementation.

[Read Article](#)

State of the State Analysis

State of the State: Center for State Fiscal Reform Looks Eastward

Thurston Powers | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The Center for State Fiscal Reform continues its in-depth analyses of State of the State addresses from across the nation. The center is focused on highlighting both strong and weak fiscal policies outlined in the speeches, and their effects on the specific states. New this week are the analyses of eastern seaboard states Virginia, Maryland and Massachusetts. To see all the responses so far, follow the link below.

[View Articles](#)

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

A Standard Bearer for Tax Reform in North Carolina
Representative Jason Saine | NC-97



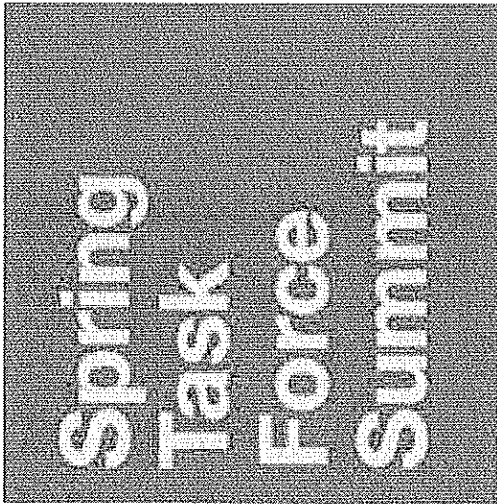
This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **North Carolina Representative Jason Saine**. Representative Saine also serves as the 2018 National Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council. Saine has been a driving force behind tax reform in his home state, and is proud of the results, saying, "We've seen surplus year after year while cutting taxes and keeping spending in line with the growth of our state economy."

[Read Article](#)

STFS 2018

Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit

Early Bird registration is currently open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit. The summit



will take place on **April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI**. Click the link below to get more information and register for the conference.

[Register Here](#)



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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

CEO Update: Silly Season Heats Up

1 message

Lisa B. Nelson <lisanelson@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 12:00 PM

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).



Dear Legislators,

Please read this email.

During the mid-terms (and every election year), it's never too early to start thinking about what you've heard me call "silly season"—that time in an election cycle when any claim made on the internet or by your opposition must be true. Often, while on the campaign trail legislators are asked loaded questions, are the targets of online and direct-mail attacks, or any number of other charges and accusations that just don't make sense.

Because of the political and policy landscape, and because free-market control of state legislatures and redistricting hangs in the balance, we expect 2018 to be a particularly contentious and vitriolic campaign season. Activists from San Francisco, New York, Madison and elsewhere will challenge your support for the free-market.

When managing and responding to these attacks, it is important to remember your true north—what you stand for... and, remember what you know to be true about the people and organizations with whom you affiliate.

The ALEC public affairs team is always available to help you respond to inquiries and put together a helpful [talking points document](#) for your use. The linked talking points provide helpful responses should you receive questions. But also, remember the answer is quite simple: If asked, talk about your most recent task force experience. What did you do? What was it like? What was discussed? What positive policy idea that would help the people of your state was discussed?

If you have additional questions, please reach out to Bill Meierling at WMeierling@alec.org.

Over the past several years, ALEC welcomed hundreds of journalists to its meetings and conducted thousands of interviews. One must actively avoid information about ALEC to call it dark and secretive. Further, all model policy, both draft and approved are posted on the [ALEC website](#).

As you know, ALEC is a nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization. Every legislator and organization is welcome to join and participate in the exchange of

limited government, free market and federalism focused ideas. More voices and perspectives make ALEC stronger and make our policies better. In fact, **one of the principal reasons legislators say they trust ALEC policy is because it is more deeply vetted and more fully debated before it becomes a model.**

Even though silly season is on the horizon, you have the tools to succeed and ALEC will be with you along the way. Speak your truth, stand up for what you believe in and lean on the ALEC staff whenever you have questions.

Sincerely,


Lisa B. Nelson

Chief Executive Officer
American Legislative Exchange Council

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2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22202 United States

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

CEO Update: What You Need to Know About Your Shareholder Meeting

1 message

Lisa B. Nelson <lisanelson@alec.org>

Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 12:00 PM

To: latoursm@gmail.com

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

Dear members,

As ALEC celebrates its 45th anniversary this year, I have the opportunity to reflect on the most pressing issues facing business today and how there is now a new context for your government relations and shareholder engagement strategy. You must be agile and ready to adapt.

Since Citizens United activists have aimed to change corporations rather than laws in order to reach what they call a fairer society. And while many shareholder proposals yield positive change for companies and the American people—for instance moves to increase board diversity or make it a corporate priority to hire veterans, the elderly or people with criminal records.

We all know that **not all shareholder proposals are created equal**. In many cases, these proposals—if instituted—would fundamentally impact a company's ability to operate and grow. Seemingly unrelated proposals as outlined below have been coordinated to place a company in disarray or to force change. Shareholder groups also coordinate with other outside groups to create public pressure.

Last year, McDonald's received seven shareholder resolutions from groups on issues ranging from political spending to the \$15-minimum wage to the use of antibiotics in the chicken it sources. All seven shareholder resolutions (brought by the Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas; Harrington Investments; Thomas August; and others) were coordinated through [Proxy Preview](#), a project of [As You Sow](#). At the same time as McDonald's received these shareholder resolutions, progressive activist groups ran campaigns targeting the company's public relations and marketing efforts: [Color of Change](#) on wages and the [Public Interest Research Group](#) and the [Fund for the Public Interest](#) on antibiotics in chicken. All claim victory for the change in McDonald's policy.

Why this matters: As an individual you might not want antibiotics in your chicken, but what if the shareholder resolution your company received inhibited your ability to sell what you sell, make what you make, or decide how and to whom you give political contributions. **In 2015, Proxy Preview coordinated 421 shareholder resolutions against 267 companies—26 percent of the resolutions were about disclosure of political spending.** 19 resolutions

demanded companies end their relationship with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business and/or ALEC.

As a government relations professional, this matters to you. It's up to you to ensure your executives are briefed about the orchestration of brand disruption campaigns.

If you are interested in learning what Proxy Preview has in store for your company, I encourage you to join their webinar next Thursday March 8, from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST. You can sign up at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5016521090349259778>.

Activist shareholder resolutions rarely pass or become company policy. But, they have—over time—dramatically changed the corporate and investor landscape. There is no better indicator of the shift than a letter written in January by BlackRock Investment CEO Larry Fink. His firm manages more than \$6 trillion in investments. Fink's annual letters often touch upon "long-term value creation," but it is interesting to note how his definition has changed between 2015 and 2018. In 2015, "long-term value creation" focused on listening to long-term owners/investors in a company to maximize profit. This January, the definition changed to a focus on Environmental, Social and Governance-focused investing practices. In his January 12 letter, Fink noted:

"To prosper over time, every company must not only deliver financial performance, but also show how it makes a positive contribution to society. Companies must benefit all of their stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, customers, and the communities in which they operate." He continued, "Without a sense of purpose, no company, either public or private, can achieve its full potential...It will remain exposed to activist campaigns that articulate a clearer goal, even if that goal serves only the shortest and narrowest of objectives."

Fink's letter foreshadows a change in focus from your shareholders to someone else's stakeholders.

Less than one month later, on February 7, BlackRock announced a \$10 Billion buyout fund to be led by two former senior executives of the **Canadian Public Sector Pension Fund**.

With all of the vitriol and brinksmanship in the national political discourse, you can surely expect it to spill over into this year's shareholder meetings. Don't let a vocal minority cloud the goals of your business' long-term strategy. Your company knows best how to grow, and part of your strategy is most certainly participation with groups and organizations that share an uncompromising commitment to lower taxes, innovation, free trade, economic security and protecting the long-term interests of hardworking taxpayers.

ALEC closely follows the activist investor landscape. If you have questions or desire an in-depth presentation including steps you can take to mitigate potential challenges, please reach out to me as soon as possible. With shareholder season heating up, we want you to be armed with the best and most actionable information possible.

Sincerely,

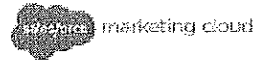
Lisa B. Nelson

Chief Executive Officer
American Legislative Exchange Council

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Gmail - ALEC Events and Education - 3/6/2018

Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

American Legislative Exchange Council <tmclaughlin@alec.org>

Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 12:47 PM

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Spring Task Force Summit

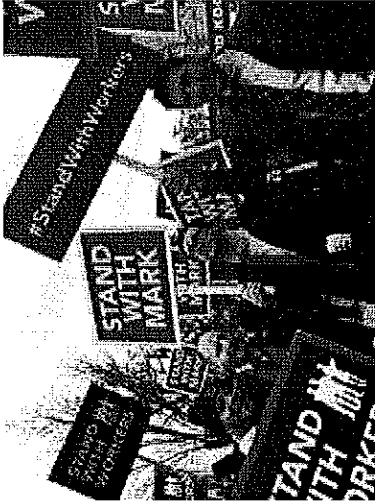
Early Bird registration is currently open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit. The summit will take place on **April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI**. Click the link below to get more information and register for the conference.

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ALEC Joins Janus Rally at Supreme Court

Robert Ordway | Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development



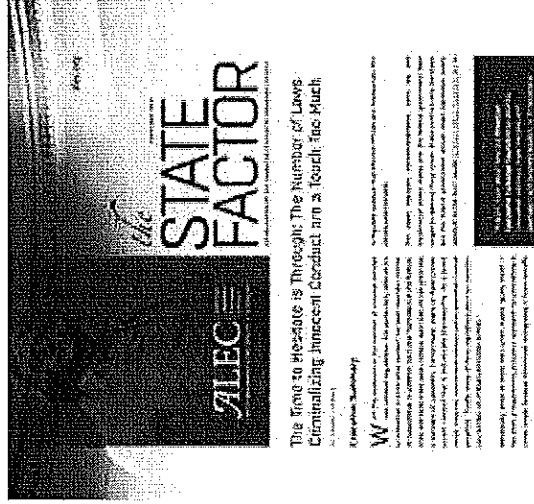
ALEC Staff joined workers, teachers, policy professionals and others outside the United States Supreme Court to rally in support of Mark Janus in his worker freedom case being heard by the court. Some see this case as an opportunity to expand worker freedom through choice, making it a potentially landmark decision in labor reform. To learn more about the history and importance of this issue, read the article linked below.

[Read Article](#)

Recent Publications

Stay Current with ALEC Publications

American Legislative Exchange Council



ALEC scholars and directors work to provide you with education on the issues that matter to you. In the last month, ALEC has released two publications: *The Time to Hesitate is Through: The Number of Laws Criminalizing Innocent Conduct is a Touch Too Much*, which deals with overcriminalization and *mens rea* reform; and the *2017 State Tax Cut Roundup*, which concerns tax reform at the state level over the past legislative session. To check out all ALEC publications, follow the link below.

[View Publications](#)

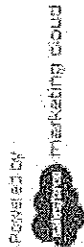


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7/23/2018

Gmail - Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, March 7



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, March 7

1 message

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To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

Wed, Mar 7, 2018 at 8:16 AM

MEDIA CLIPS

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News Bill Tracking Legislation

NEWS

GOP's Kasich delivers philosophical final State of the State (Associated Press, 3/7/2018)

White nationalist Richard Spencer to drop Ohio State lawsuit (Associated Press, 3/7/2018)

Kasich winds down while stoking 2020 chances (Cincinnati Enquirer, 3/7/2018)

What Kasich did – and didn't – say in speech (Cincinnati Enquirer, 3/7/2018)

Gun violence in Ohio: 6 things to know (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 3/7/2018)

John Kasich uses State of the State to reflect on the meaning of life (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 3/7/2018)

Opioid overdoses spiked 28 percent in Ohio last year, CDC says (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 3/7/2018)

Democrat Bill O'Neill takes anti-abortion stance in governor's race (Columbus Dispatch, 3/7/2018)

Kasich's final State of State speech: philosophy over policy (Columbus Dispatch, 3/7/2018)

Ohio Democrats get money to help organize minority voters (Columbus Dispatch, 3/7/2018)

Rollback of Dodd-Frank banking regulations concerns Sen. Sherrod Brown (Columbus Dispatch, 3/7/2018)

Senator Portman warns against broad steel tariffs (Columbus Dispatch, 3/7/2018)

Gov. John Kasich pushes values in last State of the State speech (Dayton Daily News, 3/7/2018)

Kasich honors local nurse for her courage under fire in Las Vegas (Dayton Daily News, 3/7/2018)

Portman warns of 'unintended consequences' from Trump's tariff plan (Dayton Daily News, 3/7/2018)

Full text of Governor's State of the State speech (Gongwer News Service, 3/7/2018)

Cordray wins backing of big labor (Toledo Blade, 3/7/2018)

Judge to hear arguments in Clean Lake Erie lawsuit (Toledo Blade, 3/7/2018)

Kasich in address: Love guided me to aid Ohio (Toledo Blade, 3/7/2018)

EDITORIALS

Another View: Statewide races deserve debates (Canton Repository, 3/7/2018)

Ohio AG must shine a harsh light on courts that fail to record those barred from owning guns: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 3/7/2018)

Editorial: No Ohio future seen for coal (Columbus Dispatch, 3/7/2018)

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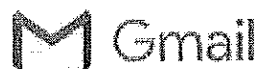
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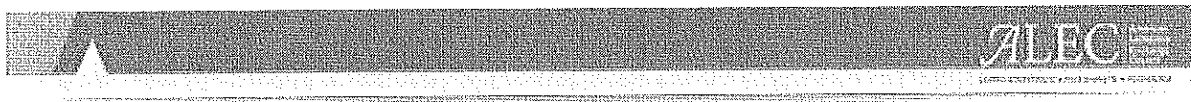
What You Missed at ALEC: 3/8/2018

1 message

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ALEC Digital Exchange: March 8, 2018



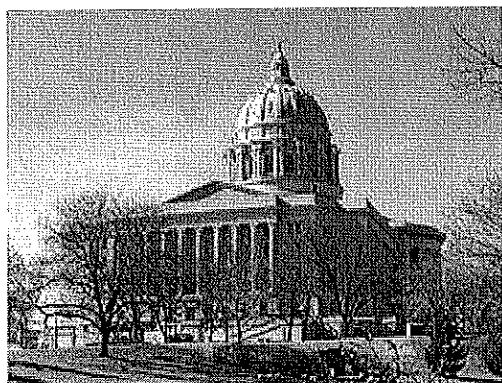
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ALEC In The News

North Carolina, Not Kansas, Is the Tax Cut Model

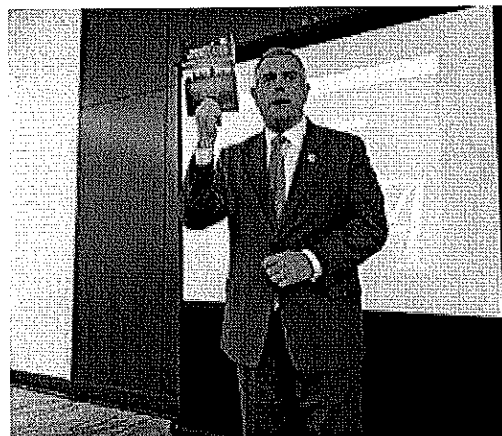
MO Senator Ed Emery and Jonathan Williams | *Kansas City Star*

Kansas is the left's favorite red herring to distract attention from major tax reform success stories like North Carolina, Indiana and Wisconsin, to name just a few. There are right and wrong ways to go about tax reform, and the overspending pitfalls from Kansas should be kept in mind. However, North Carolina provides Missouri with a better road map for tax reform that works.

[Read Article](#)

ALEC In the States

Membership Events Energize Members, Grow ALEC



Over the last week, ALEC Staff have been in the states, working with our members to drive excitement for this year's events and meetings, and to meet legislators who can benefit from membership. **Events in Mississippi generated 33 new members, while Kansas events gained another 5.** ALEC is looking forward to working with these new members in the coming year. If you know someone who would benefit from ALEC membership, follow the link below.

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ALEC In Action

Center for State Fiscal Reform Goes to New Mexico

Jonathan Williams | Center for State Fiscal Reform

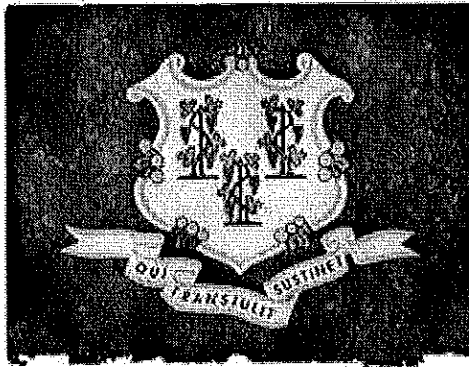


Jonathan Williams of the Center for State Fiscal Reform joined the New Mexico Business Coalition to discuss economic competitiveness and New Mexico's economic outlook. The event was attended by nearly 200 concerned business and community leaders from across the state. You can view photos from the event [here](#) and [here](#).

Criminal Justice

Connecticut Continues to Seek Improvements to its Asset Forfeiture Process

Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice



Last year, Connecticut joined a growing list of states that have passed civil asset forfeiture laws to make it more difficult for government agencies to take property from its citizens. In fact, last year Connecticut abolished civil asset forfeiture and replaced it with criminal forfeiture. The law's passage was a crucial victory for property rights. Now, Connecticut is seeking to close any loopholes that may allow the process to continue.

[View Articles](#)

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Looking Out For Small Businesses in Maryland

Delgate Kathy Szeliga | MD-7



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Maryland Delegate Kathy Szeliga**. Delegate Szeliga is the product of military family, and has operated a general construction contracting business for the last 27 years. Szeliga is wary of big government and unbridled spending, commenting "The ever-growing and overreaching monster of big government is smothering the potential for future generations."

[Read Article](#)

STFS 2018

Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit



Early Bird registration is currently open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit. The summit will take place on **April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI**. Click the link below to get more information and register for the conference.

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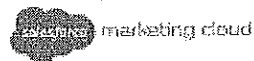


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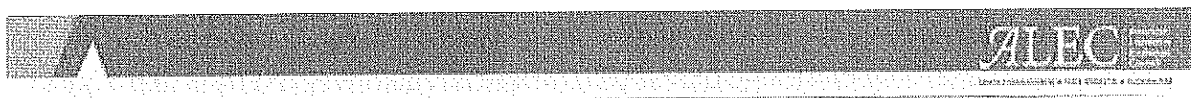
ALEC Tuesday Update: Sign the Letter to Congress Advising against Online Sales Tax

1 message

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Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 1:40 PM

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State Legislators: Congress Needs to Hear From You! Please add Your Name to the Open Letter to Congress

Tell Congress: Requiring Businesses with no "Physical Presence" to Collect State Sales Taxes Violates the Constitution and Harms the U.S. Economy

Dear Members of Congress,

As state legislators, we oppose the attempts to overturn constitutional precedent safeguarding Congress's essential authority to protect interstate commerce from discriminatory regulation and taxation. As a result, commerce has grown, unfettered between the states. Such a populous and geographically expansive free trade zone is largely responsible for the abundance of wealth and opportunity—unrivaled in history—spread across our nation. Unfortunately, some state policymakers are attempting to resolve their overspending problems to look aggressively beyond their own state lines for tax revenue. This misguided bid to resolve their overspending problems utterly violates the constitutional principles that provide a proving ground for innovation, entrepreneurship and small businesses.

The U.S. Constitution was written to replace the Articles of Confederation in no small part due to the latter's failure to prevent a spiraling interior "war" of states who could assert tax and regulatory authority outside their borders and thereby create fiefdoms for themselves. The Constitution's Commerce Clause and subsequent jurisprudence make clear that taxing power must be limited by state borders. Businesses lacking a "substantial nexus" or link to a state through a "physical presence" such as offices, employees, or property, cannot be forced to act as tax collection agents for that state (*Quill Corp v North Dakota* (1992)). If the Supreme Court overturns *Quill*, state tax collectors would be empowered to reach across their boundaries to collect taxes from non-resident online retailers located outside of their jurisdiction. These retailers could face fines or legal challenges from taxing jurisdictions based on rules in which the online retailers have no voice.

Forcing online retailers to understand and comply with remote rates, exemptions, rules, tax holidays, or other peculiarities of 12,000 different tax jurisdictions (roughly twice as many as existed in 1992) is highly discriminatory. Contrast this with the treatment of sales in similar brick-and-mortar businesses, which only require collection of tax for the jurisdiction in which they are physically located. The compliance costs would fall particularly hard on specialty businesses and small sellers that are dependent on the internet to reach their customers. This would stunt economic dynamism, deter business activity, and unreasonable burden businesses engaging in interstate commerce.

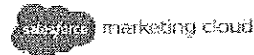
As state legislators, we recognize the threat to growth, and to each of our states, posed by the potential unleashing of aggressive out-of-state tax collectors and auditors on businesses located elsewhere. For nearly 20 years, ALEC members have steadfastly supported the physical presence standard outlined in Quill through model policies such as the Sales and Use Tax Collection Protection Act as well as the 21st Century Commercial Nexus Act. Our constituents overwhelmingly agree (according to a Rasmussen Reports Poll) with our opposition to allowing tax enforcement agents from one state to collect taxes from hardworking individuals and businesses elsewhere. Healthy economic competition in a free market, between the 50 "laboratories of democracy," is at the heart of the American experiment with federalism. Each year, the Rich States, Poor States publication reveals how tax policy affects state tax competition and economic outlook. Blurring—or eliminating—the limits of any individual state's sovereignty—erodes the efficacy of this experiment.

Sincerely,
(Click here to add your name)

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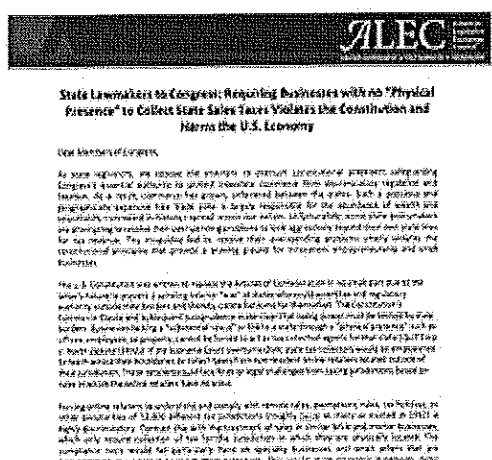


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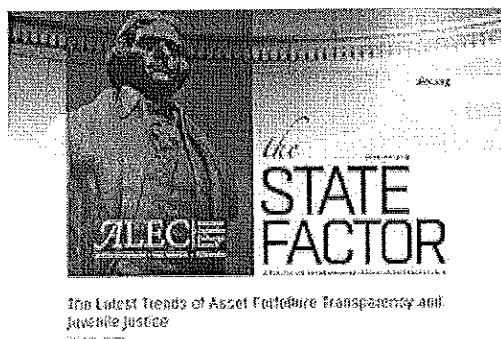
State Legislators Sign Here: Open Letter to Congress Opposing Internet State Sales Taxes
American Legislative Exchange Council



Forcing online retailers to understand and comply with remote rates, exemptions, rules, tax holidays, or other peculiarities of 12,000 different tax jurisdictions is highly discriminatory. The compliance costs would fall particularly hard on small sellers dependent on the internet to reach their customers, stunting economic dynamism, deterring business activity, and placing an unreasonable burden on businesses engaging in interstate commerce.

Sign the Letter

State Factor: The Latest Trends of Asset Forfeiture Transparency and Juvenile Justice
Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice



In 2017, many states passed laws providing for increased transparency of the asset forfeiture process. Another issue that has gained traction in the states is raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction in criminal cases. This publication examines state trends on these two important policy issues.

[View Publication](#)

ALEC In The News

NJ Move Further Underfunds State Pensions

Thurston Powers | Center for State Fiscal Reform | *The Asbury Park Press*



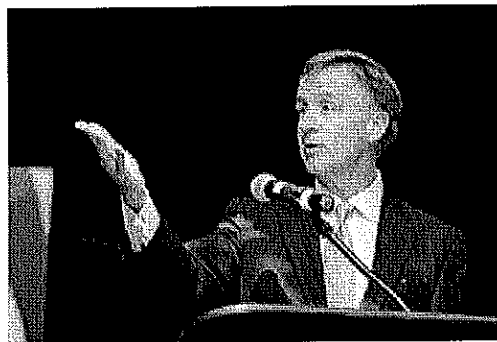
Newly appointed New Jersey State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio this month increased the state pension system discount rate from 7 to 7.5 percent, while phasing it back down to 7 percent over the next five years. New Jersey's decision to increase its discount rate stands in stark contrast to the majority of state pension plans decreasing their discount rates.

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State of the State Analysis

Center for State Fiscal Reform Analyzes Gubernatorial Addresses

Center for State Fiscal Reform

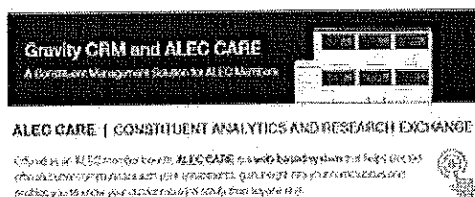


The ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform continues its analysis of State of the State Addresses across the nation. These analyses identify strong and weak tax and fiscal policies outlined in these speeches and their importance to each state's economic outlook. New this week are: **Georgia**, **Arkansas**, **Mississippi**, **Colorado**, **South Carolina**, **New Jersey**, **Kansas**, **Tennessee**, **Rhode Island**, **Delaware** and **Maine**. To see all the responses so far, follow the link below.

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ALEC Care

Constituent Relations at Your Fingertips

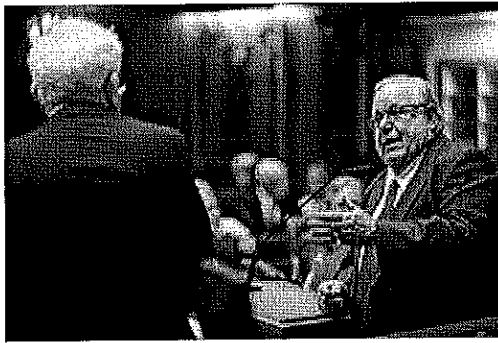


As ALEC members you have access to an online portal to handle all your constituent management needs. Take notes on incoming interactions, track issues of concern, poll constituents for insight. All of this is at your fingertips, simply as a member benefit. To activate your personal account, and schedule an online webinar to review the platform, you can contact our C.A.R.E. Associate, Aaron Gillham, at agillham@alec.org.

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Providing a Better Future in Indiana

Representative Woody Burton | IN-58



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Indiana State Representative Woody Burton**. Representative Burton is the current chair of the Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force at ALEC. When Representative Burton isn't fighting against property taxes, he's committed to fixing Indiana's Child Services system, saying "If I had one wish for our state, it would be that the Department of Child Services would be completely revamped, so that all Hoosier kids can come home to a safe and loving environment."

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STFS 2018

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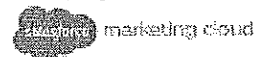


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7/24/2018

Gmail - What You Missed at ALEC: 3/15/2018

7/23/2018

Gmail - House & Senate Floor Report



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

House & Senate Floor Report

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News Bill Tracking Legislation

HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

HB 545

SALES TAX REMITTANCE (Arndt, S.)
To authorize small retailers to remit sales taxes when the retailer receives payment from the purchaser if the payment is received after the purchased item is delivered or the service is provided.

HB 546

TELEMEDICINE (Patton, T.)
To prohibit health benefit plans from treating telemedicine services differently from in-person

755

Regarding Public Employees Retirement System service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of development disabilities.

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To permit a person to wear earplugs for hearing protection while operating a motorcycle.

To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day.





 文部科学省
 教育部

To establish family and medical leave insurance benefits to provide paid leave to allow an individual to address the individual's own serious health condition, to care for a family member, or to bond with a new child and to exempt those benefits from personal income tax.

Regarding hazardous occupations prohibited for minors and providing training to certain minors employed in a construction or manufacturing occupation.

2551

To establish requirements governing the chemical capture of animals, prohibit the use of gas chambers when euthanizing an animal, and

to make changes to the law governing euthanasia of an animal by lethal injection.

HB 553

THEFT IN OFFICE (Cupp, R.)

To expand the increased penalties for theft in office based on the amount of property or services stolen and to include as restitution certain audit costs of the entity that suffered the loss involved in the offense.

RE-REFERRED

SB 170

COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSES (LaRose, F.)

To require the Director of Public Safety to seek approval from the United States Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to implement a temporary pilot program regarding the waiver of the skills test for a commercial driver's license that applies to present and former military personnel.

House Government Accountability & Oversight

REFERRED

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 542

EARNING STATEMENTS (Kelly, B.)

To require an employer to provide earnings and deductions statements to each of the employer's employees.

Education & Career Readiness



TEACHER EVALUATIONS (Gavarone, T.,

HB 540**Manning, N.)****With regard to teacher evaluations.****HB 544****SCHOOL SAFETY STANDARDS (Rogers, J.,
Perales, R.)**

To require the State Board of Education to adopt rules prescribing standards for safety enhancements to new public and nonpublic school facilities and to require the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to revise its construction and design standards to comply with the State Board's standards.

Health**HB 541****VOLUNTEER HEALTH SERVICES (Patterson, J.,
LaTourette, S.)**

To authorize health professionals licensed in other states to provide volunteer health services during charitable events.

State & Local Government**HB 539****STATE DOG (Rezabek, J.)**

To designate the Labrador Retriever as the official state dog.

HB 543**COUNTY PROSECUTORS (Perales, R., Hambley,
S.)**

To allow a county prosecuting attorney to enter into a contract with a regional airport authority, port authority, or regional planning commission to be its legal adviser.

Transportation & Public Safety

ROAD NAMING (McClain, R.)

To designate a portion of U.S. Route 30 in Wyandot and Crawford Counties as the "Lt. Harry L. Martin Memorial Highway."

83533

LGF ALLOCATIONS (Cera, J., Rogers, J.)

To increase the proportion of state tax revenue allocated to the Local Government Fund from 1.66% to 3.53% beginning July 1, 2019.

HB 24

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS (Ginter, T.)

To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501C(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces.

Senate Ways & Means

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Center for Innovation and Technology: Video Game Violence and the Game Washington Plays

1 message

Bartlett Cleland <ahackbarth@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 12:02 PM

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Center for Innovation and Technology - March 20, 2018

From Center Director Bartlett Cleland: Video Game Violence and the Game Washington Plays

Almost like clockwork after a tragedy of gun violence, special interests begin pointing fingers. One of the regular targets of such finger pointing is the video game industry. Rather than looking to solve problems, all too predictably there are those who look to exploit the heartbreak of others. The evil perpetrated in Parkland, Florida resulted in the same, although compared to Sandy Hook this time the reactions were a bit more reasonable.

Back then, just days after the horrendous shooting, then-Senator and chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, Jay Rockefeller, did not miss the opportunity to exploit the situation by calling for a study of video game violence and its effects on children. Not to be shoved down a step on the grandstand, then Vice-President Joe Biden called for more studies to see if any evidence could be found linking violent video games to real life violence, despite the fact that studies show there is no scientific proof linking the two. The goal seemed to be to simply keep calling for a study until one produced a result he liked. Joe Biden was just playing games.

This time President Trump held a meeting at the White House with video game executives and watchdog groups, and to the credit of the White House, attendees reported that no planned actions were announced. Hopefully this is a sign that the political class is beginning to appreciate the facts.

The facts:

- Study after study has shown that there is no causal link between video games and violence. Similarly, no causal link has been found media violence and violent crime.
- Exactly during the time that video game sales and popularity have exploded, violent crime has dramatically decreased.
- The U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Surgeon General, Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission studied the scientific record and did not find a causal link between violent programming and violent behavior.
- The average game player is 35 years old.
- A whopping 90 percent of time parents are present when children are buying or renting videogames.
- Ninety-four percent of the time parents are monitoring the content of the games their children are playing.
- Parents report that existing voluntary video game industry standards and the restrictions on sales put in place by the industry are helpful, accurate and reliable. The ESRB system that has long been hailed in many quarters as the standard to be followed for industry responsibility and self-regulation.

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Gmail - Center for Innovation and Technology: Video Game Violence and the Game Washington Plays

- New video game consoles include parental controls that limit access to games based on the ESRB ratings. Ninety-four percent of parents find these controls useful.

The focus on emotional leaps and assumptions, such that video games lead to gun violence, only result in one thing, that is, real solutions to protecting our children are ignored. Where video games are concerned, parental responsibility is the key. No amount of liberty limiting laws will meet the challenge. All credible research makes the same point: The key to protecting kids is a multilayered approach combining technology, law enforcement, caregiver oversight and private educational efforts such as the voluntary rating system.

Parents overwhelmingly understand their roles and are acting appropriately. Blaming entertainment software for violence and even specific violent acts, seems to a game that is only played in Washington by special interests and grandstanding politicians



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Witnesses: Suspensions, Expulsions Impair Child Development

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, March 21

Legislative Committees

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB STEP THERAPY (Johnson, T., Antonio, N.) To adopt requirements related to step therapy protocols implemented by health plan issuers and the Department of Medicaid. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

HB VOLUNTEER HEALTH SERVICES (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To authorize health professionals licensed in other states to provide volunteer health services during charitable events. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)

HB CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Ginter, T., Sprague, R.) To require pharmacists to offer to dispense controlled substances in lockable or tamper-evident containers. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

HB PHYSICAL THERAPY (Gavarone, T., Reineke, B.) To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

HB PRESCRIBING AUTHORITY (Seitz, B., Gavarone, T.) To authorize certain psychologists to prescribe psychotropic and other drugs for the treatment of drug addiction and mental illness. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)

HB STROKE PATIENTS (Lipps, S., Antonio, N.) To provide for recognition of stroke centers and establishment of protocols for assessment, treatment, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party-Possible substitute)

HB AWARENESS DAY (Antani, N.) To enact "Cody's Law" to designate January 30 as "Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Awareness Day." (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB ART THERAPY (Anielski, M.) To require the licensure of art therapists and to require the State Medical Board to regulate the licensure and practice of art therapists. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS (Ginter, T.) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501C(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB ENERGY TAX EXEMPTION (Schaffer, T.) To expand the scope of a sales and use tax exemption for certain kinds of property used in the production of oil and gas. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB VISITORS BUREAUS (Peterson, B.) To authorize local elected officers that have levied a hotel lodging excise tax, or a designee of such officers to simultaneously hold the position of officer or member of the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau without constituting incompatible offices. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 114, 9:30 a.m.

SB COUNTY INVESTMENTS (Wilson, S.) To modify the qualifications regarding notes eligible for investment of county inactive moneys. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB SPORTS GRANTS (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.) To remove limitations on the amount of sports events grants that may be awarded in a fiscal year or for a specific grant, and to fund the grant program by diverting state sales tax receipts to a custodial fund administered by the Director of Development Services. (3rd Hearing-Proponent)

HB UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (20th Hearing-All testimony)

HJR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (20th Hearing-All testimony)

HB EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (Reineke, B.) To establish the Department of Learning and Achievement; to abolish the Department of Higher Education, the position of the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Ohio Board of Regents; to transfer, with exceptions, the duties regarding the administration of primary and secondary education programs and all duties regarding the administration of higher education programs to the Department of Learning and Achievement; and to prescribe certain duties regarding educator licensure, community school sponsorship, and other education programs for the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Education. (5th Hearing-Possible substitute)

HB FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS (Antani, N.) To specify that a franchisor is not the employer of a franchisee or employee of a franchisee for purposes of the Minimum Fair Wage Standards Law, the Bimonthly Pay Law, the Workers' Compensation Law, the Unemployment Compensation Law, and the Income Tax Law. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K.) To extend eligibility for the motion picture tax credit to certain live stage theater productions, to increase the maximum amount of credits that may be awarded from \$40 million to \$100 million per fiscal year, and to make other revisions to the law governing administration of the credit. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB ADDRESS RECORDS (Lanese, L.) To include forensic evaluation examiners and mental health evaluation providers as individuals whose residential and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law, and whose addresses public offices, upon request, must redact from records available to the general public on the internet. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB LIQUOR PERMITTING (Lanese, L.) To allow an outdoor refreshment area to include F liquor permit holders. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

SB AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.) To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING (McColley, R.) To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.) Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Ginter, T.) Regarding medical examinations for school bus drivers. (2nd 338Hearing-Proponent)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

HB EMERGENCY CARE (Reece, A.) To prohibit health plan issuers, including those participating in the 536Medicaid care management system, from implementing any form of selective emergency services coverage. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB PNEUMOCONIOSIS CLAIMS (Cera, J.) To modify workers' compensation benefit amounts for 99 occupational pneumoconiosis claims and to create the Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board to determine medical findings for such claims. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), South Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

HCRANTI-SEMITISM (Thompson, A., Greenspan, D.) To condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions 10 movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB MONTH DESIGNATION (Riedel, C.) To designate May as "Drive Ohio Byways Month." (2nd Hearing-159Proponent)

HB ELECTRIC BICYCLES (Brinkman, T.) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles. (2nd 250Hearing-Proponent)

HB LICENSE FEES (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary 336 instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 116, 2:30 p.m. or after session

SB FIREARMS (Terhar, L.) To waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed forces 81 and retired and honorably discharged veterans, to accept military experience with firearms as proof of competency with firearms regardless of when the applicant for a license acquired the experience, to permit a licensee to renew a concealed handgun license at any time before the expiration of the license, and to require the Attorney General to monitor the number of license fees waived and cap the total amount allowed to be waived at \$1.5 million. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB VETERAN COMMISSIONS (Miller, A., Anielski, M.) To permit county veterans service commissions to 192elect to add two members to the commission, one who is a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or subsequently in those theaters of operation, and one who is a military spouse. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB MILITARY LEAVE (Perales, R., Boyd, J.) To grant full-time state employees paid leave for the purpose of 468attending medical examinations and appointments provided through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Energy & Natural Resources (Committee Record) (Chr. Balderson, T., 466-8076), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Sean Miller, State Emergency Response Commission

SB SPORTING LICENSURE (Uecker, J., O'Brien, S.) To make changes to the laws governing hunting and

257fishing. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

SB BRINE SALES (Dolan, M., Skindell, M.) To establish conditions and requirements for the sale of brine **165**from certain oil or gas operations as a commodity and to exempt such a commodity from requirements otherwise applicable to brine. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

HBOIL GAS WELLS (Thompson, A.) To modify the law governing idle and orphaned oil and gas wells. (4th **225**Hearing-Opponent & interested party-Possible amendments)

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 3 p.m.

HBDRUG OVERDOSES (Gavarone, T.) To require certain reports regarding overdoses and naloxone, to **535**include naltrexone within the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System, and to name this act the "Opioid Data and Communication Expansion Act." (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB PARENTAL RIGHTS (Pelanda, D.) Regarding child rehoming and nonjudicial grants of parental rights. **515**(3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB MARRIAGE AGE (Lanese, L., Rogers, J.) To make changes to the laws governing the ages at which **511**persons may marry. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB MONTH DESIGNATION (Sykes, E., Boyd, J.) To designate the month of November as Ohio Adoption **420**Awareness Month. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Civil Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 121, 3 p.m. or after session

HB 480 MULTI-PARCEL AUCTIONS (Hill, B.) To establish requirements governing multi-parcel auctions. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Agency Calendar

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, 4151 Executive Parkway, Suite 350, Westerville, 10 a.m.

State Fire Council, Division of State Fire Marshal, 8895 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, 11 a.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Crystal, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) fundraiser, The Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair: \$350 to Tim Ginter for State Representative and Friends of Bill Reineke)

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) & Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Einstein Bros Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Emilia Sykes Campaign, Friends of Brigid Kelly. RSVP with Amy Katrak at 614-420-1269 or akatrak@ohiodems.org)

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) news conference on regulatory report, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Miami University President Greg Crawford news conference on the announcement of the \$50 million Boldly Creative initiative, Stateroom, Statehouse, 11 a.m.

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor:\$1000; Host: \$500; Chair: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

Buckeye Institute luncheon with American Enterprise Institute President Arthur Brooks, Athletic Club Of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 12 p.m., (For more information and to register visit the Institute's website at <https://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/events>)

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Southwest Ohio Advocacy Day reception, Athletic Club, Crystal Rm., 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Ohio Bankers League Legislative Reception, Athletic Club of Columbus, Bowling Alley, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 4 p.m.

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) fundraiser, The Buckeye Bourdon House, 36 E. Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor: \$500; Patron: \$350 to Stein for State Representative and Cupp for State Representative)

Sen. Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) fundraiser, Milestone 229, 229 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500, \$1,000 or \$500)

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) & Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Friends of Tavia Galonski and Ingram for the People. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

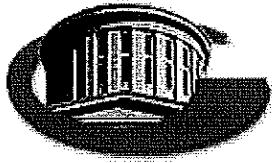
Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Candidate 12th Congressional District) fundraiser, Old Bag of Nails-Pour House Tavern, 57 Mill St., Gahanna, 6 p.m., (Host Committee: \$1,000; Patron: \$500; \$150 per couple; \$100 per person to Bacon for Congress)

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, March 20, 2018

INTRODUCED

SB BAIL DETERMINATIONS (McColley, R.) To require courts to use the results of a validated risk assessment tool in bail determinations; to allow nonmonetary bail to be set; to require courts to collect certain data on bail, pretrial release, and sentencing; and to require the Supreme Court to create a list of validated risk assessment tools and monitor the policies and procedures of courts in setting bail and utilizing pretrial supervision services. Am. 2903.212, 2907.41, 2919.251, 2935.15, 2937.22, 2937.222, 2937.23, and 2941.58 and to enact sections 2937.223, 2937.231, and 2937.47

SB NURSE ANESTHETISTS (Burke, D.) Regarding the authority of certified registered nurse anesthetists to administer drugs in addition to anesthesia and to select and order certain other drugs. Am. 4723.07, 4723.28, 4723.43, 4723.44, 4723.50, and 4729.01 and to enact section 4723.484

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Judiciary

HB UTILITY WORKERS (Rezabek, J., Greenspan, D.) To expand the offense of aggravated menacing to prohibit threatening a utility worker with intent to obstruct the operation of a utility. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The legislation is designed to put an end to utility workers being threatened or attacked while on the job, Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) said in sponsor testimony.

"We have seen many cases where an individual, whether they are installing cable services or cutting a tree down, is threatened with a deadly weapon. This piece of legislation aims to end this," he said.

Rep. Rezabek noted a recent case in Florida in which a man shot out the tires of an AT&T truck.

"While we understand that this situation is one of the egregious variety, over the course of working through this piece of legislation, we were approached by utility companies explaining that their workers have been threatened many times and that having House Bill 276 in statute, it would protect their workers greatly," he said.

Fellow sponsoring Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) said that to trigger the enhanced penalty an offender would have to know or have reasonable cause to know the victim is a utility worker. The victim would have to be engaged in the performance of his or her duties, and the offender would have to brandish a deadly weapon, he said.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) suggested the law could result in perpetrators avoiding time behind bars, noting a first-degree misdemeanor carries a jail term while a fifth-degree felony does not guarantee a prison sentence.

Rep. Rezabek said whether one is sentenced to jail for a first-degree misdemeanor depends on the jurisdiction.

In response to a question from Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton), Rep. Rezabek acknowledged that the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association is opposed to the measure.

"I think the state of Ohio and the citizens of Ohio would believe it's very important to also give those individuals that are trying to get us back up and running a little additional protection," he said, likening utility workers to first responders in some cases.

HB PUBLIC RECORDS (Huffman, S., Cera, J.) To include judges as individuals whose residential and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law, and whose addresses public offices, upon request, must redact from records available to the general public on the internet. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The legislation was spurred by the attempted assassination of a Jefferson County judge last year, Rep. Jack Cera (R-Bellaire) said in sponsor testimony.

The legislation, he said, "is a necessary safety measure, a protection for our judges."

"While it may not have helped in this particular case, the incident shows the need to look at ways to protect our judges further," he added.

Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) called the legislation common sense.

"In current code, there is an extensive list of public service workers whose personal information is not subject to disclosure under the public records law. This list includes parole officers, prosecuting attorneys, correctional employees, federal law-enforcement officers and others," he said.

"It is certainly understandable why the law protects these public servants' personal and residential information due to the dangerous nature of their duties. It is only fitting that judges and magistrates be afforded the same protection, especially in light of the events that occurred in Representative Cera's district several months ago."

SB GENITAL MUTILATION (Terhar, L., Lehner, P.) To prohibit female genital mutilation. 214 (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Lou Tobin, executive director of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, said support from the state's prosecutors is contingent on a change to ensure female genital mutilation can be charged as a second-degree felony rather than a fifth-degree felony.

"This will maintain the penalty for what an act of female genital mutilation would receive under current law," he said. "It will also more closely align the bill with the punishment under federal law."

Dr. Kristine Severyn said FGM is a problem in Columbus, which has the nation's second largest Somali immigrant population.

"Modern medicine recognizes the dangers of FGM. Medical organizations opposing FGM as unnecessary and potentially harmful include the World Health Organization, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Canada, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Medical Association," she said.

Ms. Severyn said 26 states have banned the practice.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), the bill's sponsor, questioned if the ban would lead to the practice going underground and becoming even less safe.

Dr. Severyn said that is an issue she would need to research.

The panel also received written proponent testimony from Phyllis Carlson-Richm of the Action Ohio Coalition for Battered Women.

SB CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (Hoagland, F.) To prohibit criminal mischief, criminal trespass, and

250 aggravated trespass on a critical infrastructure facility, to impose fines for organizations that are complicit in those offenses, and to impose civil liability for damage caused by trespass on a critical infrastructure facility.
(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsoring Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) said the bill is designed to stave off protests that target critical infrastructure.

"Fortunately, we have not seen any dangerous or catastrophic events here in Ohio due to such unscrupulous and dangerous actions," he said. "SB250 seeks to discourage and frankly deter such activities by stepping up the penalties associated with certain types of wrongful acts. Specifically, the bill before this committee would punish certain acts, including criminal mischief, criminal trespass, and aggravated trespass committed at a critical infrastructure facility."

The measure will not, however, infringe on First Amendment rights, Sen. Hoagland said.

"This proposed legislation is aimed at those who cross the line and intentionally damage critical infrastructure which in turn places others or the general public in jeopardy," he said.

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) raised a host of concerns with the bill, including that it could impede an individual's right to free speech.

Sen. Hoagland said there is nothing in the bill that would hinder one's right to peacefully protest.

Sen. Skindell also took issue with a provision he said could hamper the ability of news media to use a drone to capture the extent of an oil spill or some other event.

SB DELINQUENT CHILDREN (Thomas, C.) To revise the procedures for determining the delinquent child **63** confinement credit. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsoring Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) said the measure was requested by the Sentencing Commission to provide more clarity.

Under the bill juvenile offenders are allowed confinement credit for time spent in a locked and secure facility. It also allows juvenile courts continuing jurisdiction so that the issue of credit will no longer be handled by appellate courts.

He said the Department of Youth Services reviewed the measure and determined that there will be no costs associated.

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies are available on the [committee website](#) under March 20.

Finance

HB MILITARY TRANSFERS (Perales, R., Craig, H.) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the **158** person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.
(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Hannah Halbert, researcher at Policy Matters Ohio, voiced support for the measure, which would make military spouses eligible for unemployment benefits if they have to quit their job because of a transfer. She suggested the changes go further to modernize the state's unemployment system.

The state should consider adding other provisions expanding benefits to people who leave jobs due to domestic violence or to care for ill or disabled family members, she said.

She also recommended the state change the funding mechanism of the mutualized unemployment compensation account, which would cover such compensation. Employers have not been charged mutualized taxes since 2012,

but the account has been inflated by unrelated funding, such as additional federal unemployment taxes levied to pay off federal debt.

John McCoy with the Ohio Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of Ohio said in written testimony that the change is logical because military families moving to fulfill orders are not "voluntarily" leaving employment.

"This is a readiness and retention issue for military families, he said. "When families can move together their stress and worries are minimized and the expense of the move is reduced as only one household is required. Both can focus on their careers and family without the concerns of being geographically separated."

HB UNCLAIMED FUNDS (Reineke, B.) To exempt certain open-loop prepaid cards, closed-loop prepaid **353** cards, and rewards cards from the Unclaimed Funds Law. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) said it would ensure the state's escheatment provisions don't apply to open-loop gift cards, which act like pre-paid debit cards.

Ohio law currently determines balances left on open-loop gift cards after five years to be unclaimed funds, he said. This means banks are less likely to participate in the prepaid gift card industry.

"The state of Ohio and its local communities would directly benefit from this change to Ohio's escheatment laws," he said. "Increased revenue streams to local community banks would increase the amount of tax paid by banks and their shareholders and would increase the number of employees the banks would employ."

The change would have a minimal effect on the state's revenue from escheatment laws, he said.

"The current escheatment laws in Ohio practically prohibit any business from establishing open-loop gift card products, which indicates little if any revenue is flowing to the state from these products," he said.


SB VOTING EQUIPMENT (LaRose, E.) To make supplemental operating appropriations for the FY 2018-FY **135** 2019 biennium and supplemental capital appropriations for the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennium to implement a voting machine and equipment acquisition program. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

SB STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for **246** emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

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School Resource Officer Bill Could Get \$10 Million For School Safety Grants, Sponsors Say

Talks are underway to roll \$10 million for school safety efforts into an existing measure setting training requirements for school resource officers.

Sponsors Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) and Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) told the House Finance Committee Tuesday that they've been working with House and Senate leadership to amend their measure (HB 318).

"Working with...the speaker's office, as well as with Sen. (Randy) Gardner and President (Larry) Obhof's office, we have started to identify a framework for a non-competitive grant process to further improve safety across all of Ohio's schools," Rep. LaTourette said.

While details haven't been ironed out, the funding could be used to certify school resource officers and train staff on active shooter situations, or purchase devices to secure classroom doors and other safety equipment such as ballistic shields and first responder bags, she said.

"This is by no means an extensive list, but I wanted to give the committee a general understanding of the conversations that have been taking place as we craft the language we will be asking you to review in a future hearing," she said.

The grant proposal and other updates to the bill, which previously advanced through the House Education Committee, are the latest response to concerns regarding school safety in the wake of the February shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.

The House is poised to approve a sales tax holiday bill (SB 226) that includes an amendment providing Educational Service Centers authority to seek district-wide tax issues to pay for security upgrades and mental health services. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 13, 2018)

The grant funding proposal comes on the same day that a school-based officer in Maryland shot and killed a suspect who had reportedly fired on fellow students.

"We all agree that safety is of the utmost importance for all of our citizens, but it is especially important that we take every possible step that we can to ensure the safety of our schools," Rep. LaTourette said. "We believe HB318 is an important common sense step toward that goal. We also believe there is more than can, and should be done."

The original intent of the legislation to define and set training guidelines for school resource officers will remain, she said.

Rep. Patterson said having qualified officers who are embedded into the school community will not only be beneficial in the event of a violent incident, but could prevent one from happening in the first place.

"A school resource officer needs to know the students because it's all based on relationships," he said. They need to have the "ability to relate to students without crossing that line, be one who can be a friend, but also be a

position of authority inside the school, the first line of defense in heading off potential problems."

The proposal requires SROs to complete a training program approved by the Ohio Peace Officer's Training Commission and an additional 40 hours of training that includes instruction on, among other things, the nuances of performing law enforcement functions in schools, school security needs and identifying the trends in drug use.

Another provision requires districts to enter into memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies supplying the SROs.

Currently, there are no requirements for resource officers, so there is no way of knowing what type of training existing officers have had outside of police training or what their contracts entail, Rep. Patterson said. The bill doesn't require current officers to be certified to continue working in schools.

The measure is inspired by the Coach Hall Foundation, which was formed to push for effective means to protect school violence after the Chardon High School shooting in 2012, Rep. LaTourette said.

"They believe, and we agree, that in order for SROs to effectively protect students, the state must establish at least a base level standard for school districts to follow when they choose to hire SROs," she said.

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) pointed to reports that, unlike the coach in Chardon who chased the shooter away, the SRO at the Florida high school did not pursue the shooter. He asked if the training called for in the bill will specifically prepare SROs to address active shooters.

"I'm hoping with this bill and this training moving forward that we won't have that kind of situation," Rep. LaTourette said.

Rep. Patterson said he and his joint sponsor haven't looked into whether Florida has laws governing the responsibilities or for training for school resource officers because the bill has been in the works for about two years.

In addition to addressing an important and timely issue, Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) said the forthcoming funding proposals could make Ohio eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency training and U.S. Department of Homeland Security grants.

Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) questioned whether discussions have included details on how many schools could receive funding, noting concern for school safety is one that spans the state.

"There's been another shooting today in our country...at a high school in Maryland and so the sad truth is that our students, certainly, and our teachers and everyone who's in the school and the parents in our communities are faced with the possibility of violence it seems like on daily basis now," Rep. Antonio said.

According to initial reports from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department, the shooter who opened fire on Tuesday morning, injuring students at Great Mills High School, was shot dead by a school resource officer.

Rep. LaTourette said the finer points of the proposed grant program haven't been decided on as of yet, but initial training for a school resource officer costs about \$500.

Senate Panel Reviews Voting Machine Funding Mechanism As Counties Stress Need

County election officials emphasized the importance of state funding for new voting machines ahead of 2020's presidential election before a Senate panel Tuesday.

The Senate Finance Committee also discussed the financing mechanism to be employed in legislation (SB 135) providing \$114.5 million for the task.